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VAMPIRELLA®



Requies
2012

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE FUTURE

CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING, VEE?

UH-HUH.

I THOUGHT I'D PEAKED. I ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT I'D SEEN OR DONE THE CRAZIEST CRAP IMAGINABLE, PERIOD.

AND NOW?

YEAH. "AND NOW."

UH-OH. BE READY TO MOVE.

ATTENTION!

CEASE ALL MOVEMENT, AND SUBMIT TO IDENTITY SCAN.

COME ON!

BZAPAPAPAP BZAPAPAPAP

DON'T STOP, NO MATTER WHAT--

YOU KNOW I CAN'T FLY, RIGHT?!



JUMP!

BZAPAPAPAP

BZAPAPAPAP



KRKLIK

WRRRRRRRRR

VEEP VEEP VEEP



YOU'RE SURE IT'S THEM? LOCK AND SCAN. WE NEED TO VERIFY.

THEIR ARRIVAL IN OUR TIME FALLS WITHIN THE CHRONAL PARAMETERS--

--WORKING TO CONFIRM. DON'T LOSE VISUAL.



YAAAAAAAH!

WIIIIIIIIINNGS...

YOOUUURRR WIIIIIIIIINNGS

I'M... NNNNGGH... I'M TRYING!



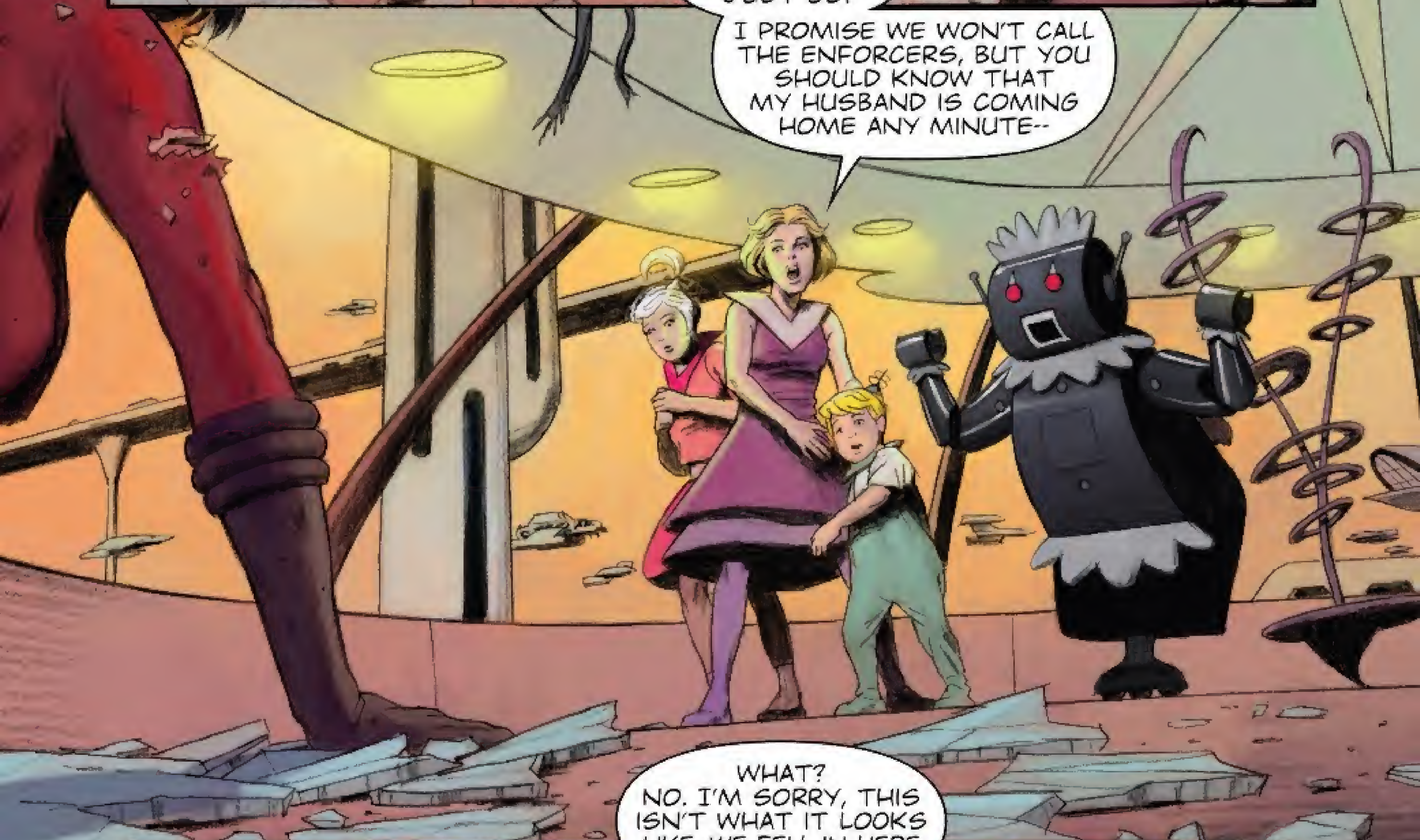


THANKS FOR THE SHOCK-ABSORBER TACKLE. YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

I'LL BE BETTER WHEN I FIND OUT WHY I COULDN'T POP MY DAMN WINGS--

PLEASE DON'T HURT US! TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT AND JUST GO!

I PROMISE WE WON'T CALL THE ENFORCERS, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MY HUSBAND IS COMING HOME ANY MINUTE--



WHAT? NO. I'M SORRY, THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. WE FELL IN HERE BY ACCIDENT.

WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, I PROMISE.



I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME.



CENTERKEEP
EARTHLY OUTPOST FOR THE FORCES OF ORDER
PROVENANCE, KANSAS

PRESENT DAY



WE'RE
LOSING HIM,
LILITH.

I'M SO
VERY SORRY.
I DIDN'T
KNOW--

YOU COULDN'T
HAVE KNOWN,
PENDRAGON.

YOU CLAIM TO BE A SPORTSMAN,
MISTER QUATERMASS. MY
GRANDSON LUKAS MAY BE
YOUR MORTAL ENEMY...

...BUT THERE
IS NO SPORT IN
LETTING HIM DIE
THIS WAY. THERE'S
ALSO NO PERSONAL
SATISFACTION TO
BE GAINED FOR
YOURSELF--

I'M A HUNTER,
NOT A DUNCE. I
DON'T CARE HOW
HE DIES...



...I JUST
WANT THE
SATISFACTION
OF KNOWING
THAT HE'S
DEAD.



VEP

CARGO SHIP KALINA
PACIFIC OCEAN



WE'RE HALF
AN HOUR OUT FROM
THE OMEGA PHASE
STAGING AREA,
PROFESSOR.



START JAMMING
ALL COMM
FREQUENCIES...



"...AND DEPLOY THE
ADVANCE TEAM. I
DON'T WANT ANY
SURVIVORS."



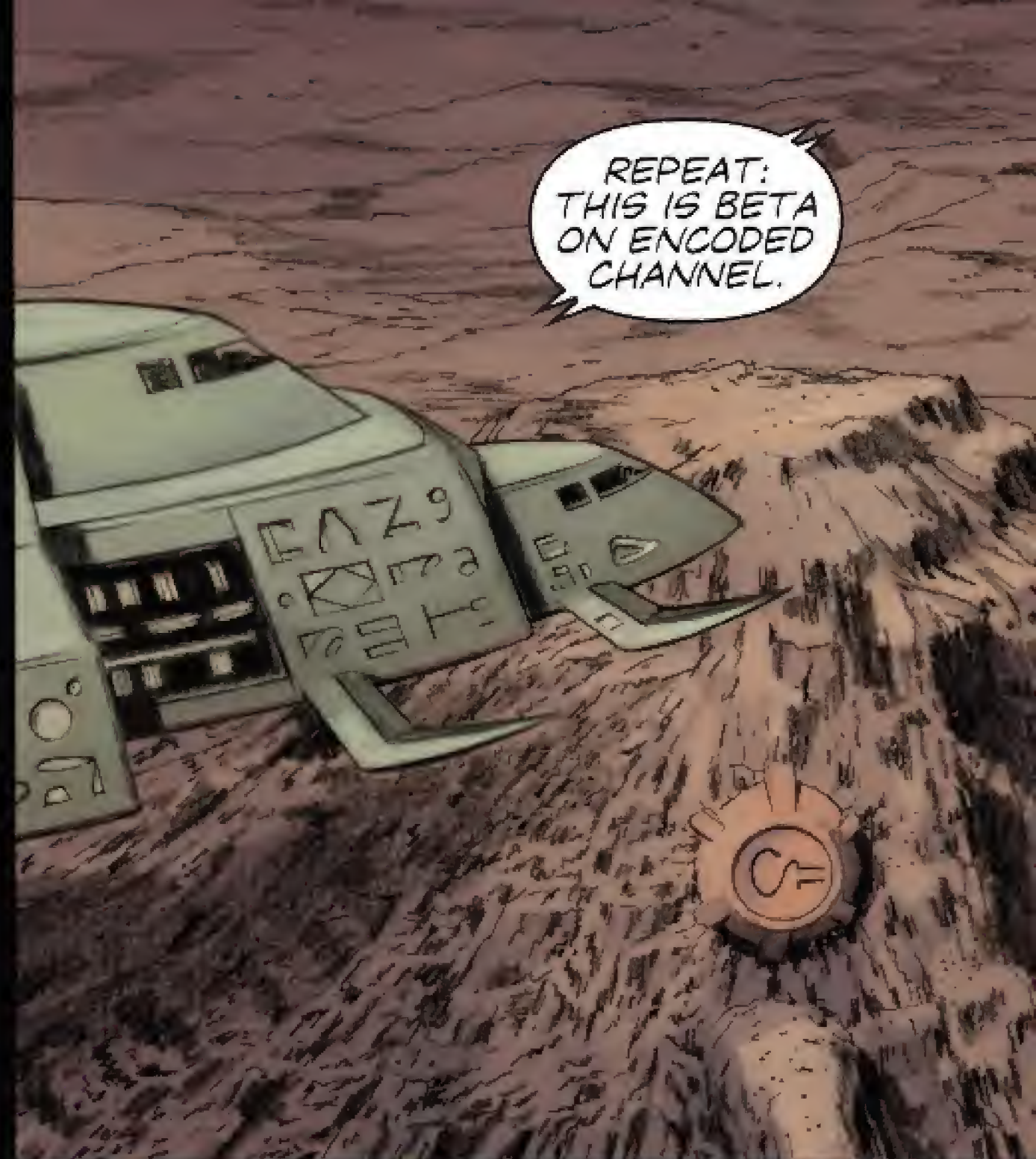
WE CAN'T
AFFORD ANY MORE
DELAYS FROM THIS POINT ON.
IF ANYTHING--OR ANYONE--
EVEN APPEARS TO BE AN
OBSTACLE...

...REDUCE
IT TO ASH
AND KEEP
MOVING.





ALPHA,
THIS IS BETA.
DO YOU
COPY?



REPEAT:
THIS IS BETA
ON ENCODED
CHANNEL.



THIS IS
STARPATCH.

THE CHANNEL
IS SECURE.

GO AHEAD,
HOPPER.

WE'RE
GETTING CLOSE TO
THE TARGET AREA.
WHAT'S YOUR
STATUS?

BTEK
DEK
DEK



BLIND AND
HELPLESS.

THERE'S AN
ENERGY FIELD SURROUNDING
CENTERKEEP. WE CAN'T
MONITOR WHAT'S HAPPENING
INSIDE, SO WE CAN'T DO
ANYTHING TO HELP.



I KNOW WE'RE ON A TIGHT
CLOCK. IF WE HAVE TO
ABANDON OUR POST HERE
IN ORDER TO HELP
YOU, SO BE IT.

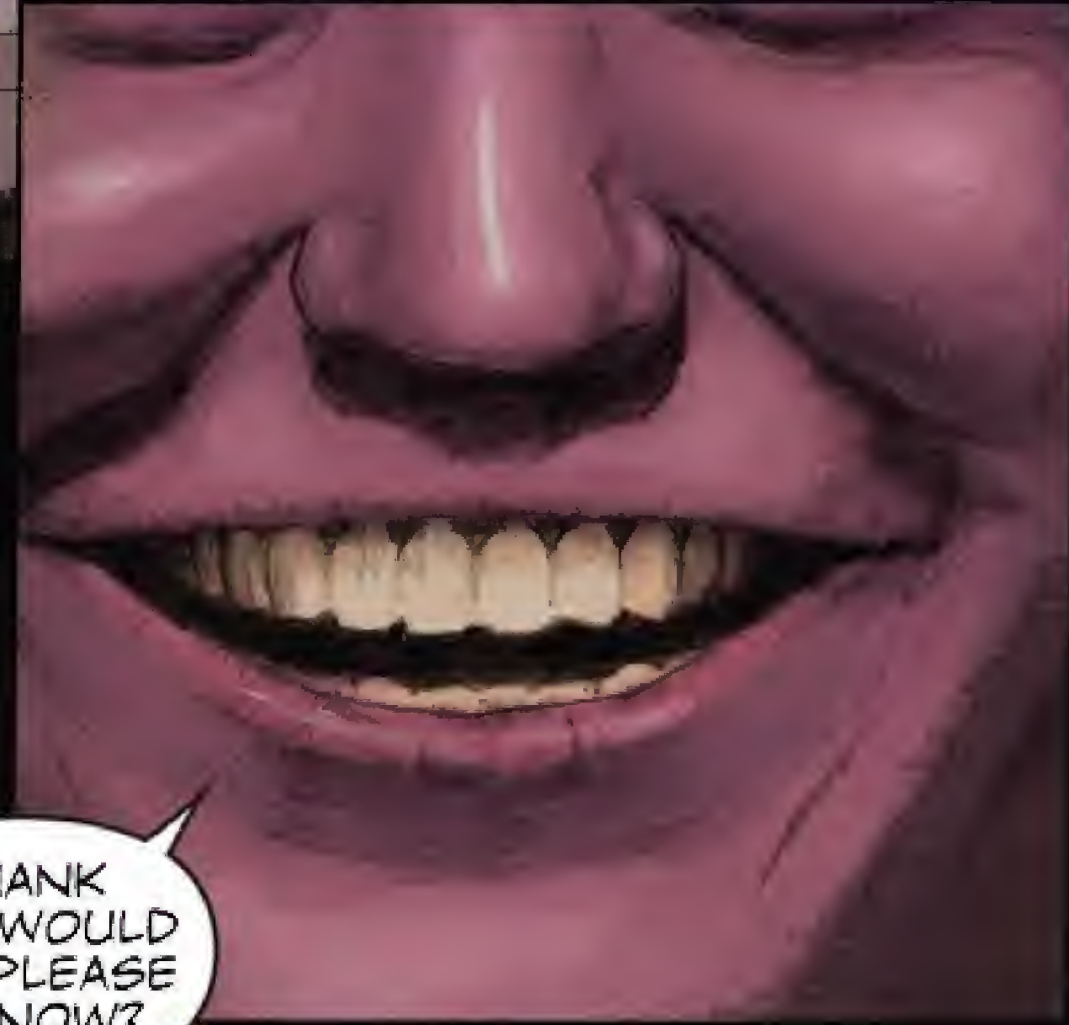
IT'S
APPRECIATED,
STARPATCH. I'LL
BE IN TOUCH
AS SOON AS
I CAN.



PARDON ME, FRIEND.

I WAS WONDERING IF I MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE A REQUEST.

WHY NOT? LET'S HEAR IT.



THANK YOU. WOULD YOU PLEASE DIE NOW?





WE
FIND YOUR
THEATRICALS
IRKSOME,
DEMON.

I CAN ONLY
BE MYSELF.
LOVE ME OR
LEAVE ME.



THE
SPACEWOMAN
AND THE EGYPTIAN
LONGHAIR, FREE
AT LAST.



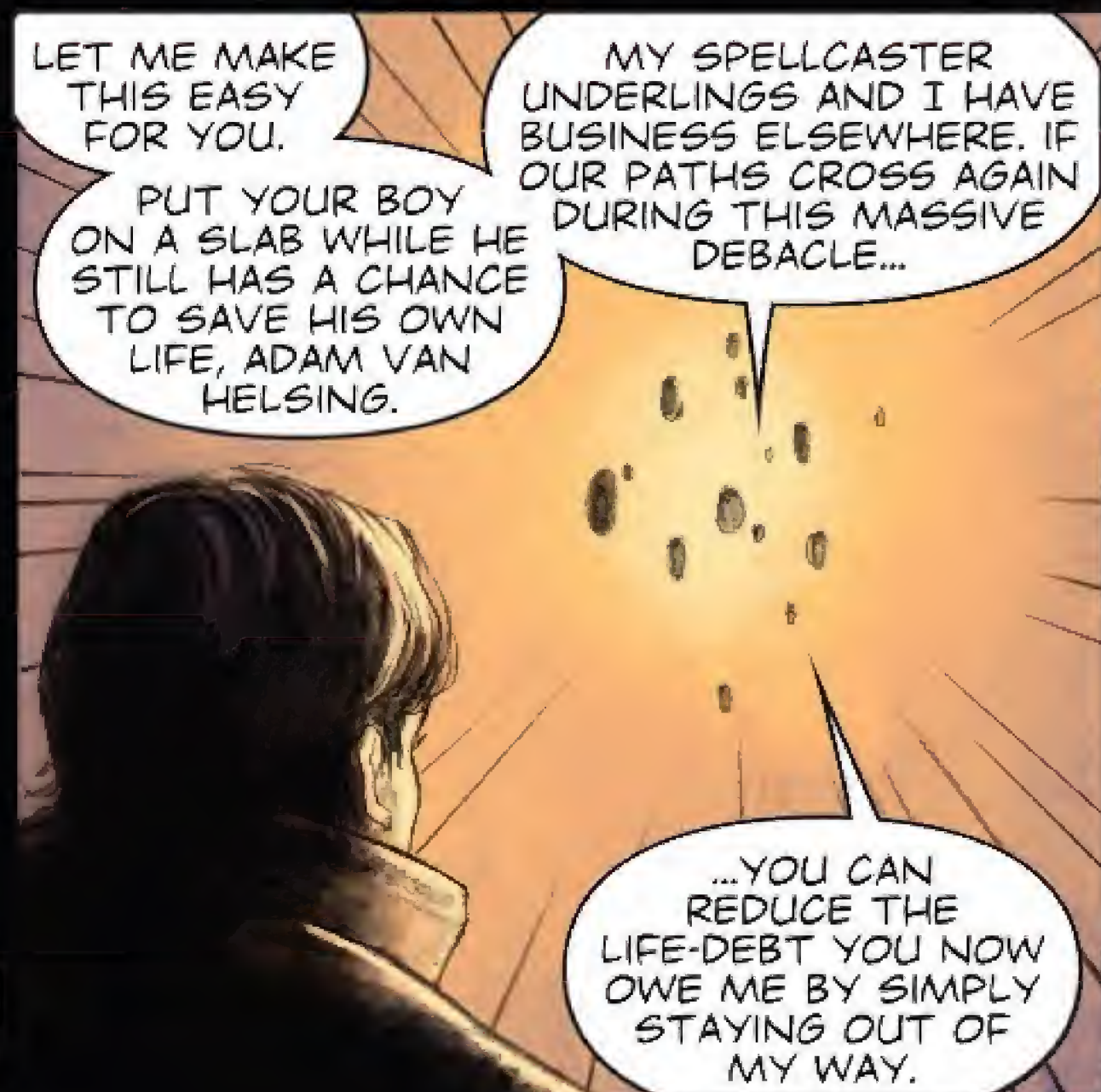
WHAT'S
HE PLAYING AT
HERE...?

I TRULY
HAVE NO IDEA,
BAZRYS.



"THANK YOU,
GRIGORY! OH!
YOU SAVED US,
GRIGORY!"

I'M NOT HEARING
ANYTHING EVEN
RESEMBLING GRATITUDE
HERE, PEOPLE! FRANKLY,
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING
TO INSULT THE HELP.




LET ME MAKE
THIS EASY
FOR YOU.

PUT YOUR BOY
ON A SLAB WHILE HE
STILL HAS A CHANCE
TO SAVE HIS OWN
LIFE, ADAM VAN
HELSING.


MY SPELLCASTER
UNDERLINGS AND I HAVE
BUSINESS ELSEWHERE. IF
OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN
DURING THIS MASSIVE
DEBACLE...

...YOU CAN
REDUCE THE
LIFE-DEBT YOU NOW
OWE ME BY SIMPLY
STAYING OUT OF
MY WAY.




IT'S BEEN
A LONG DAY,
AND I'M IN A
BAD & \$%#ING
MOOD.

GET TO
THE POINT
OR PULL THE
TRIGGER.

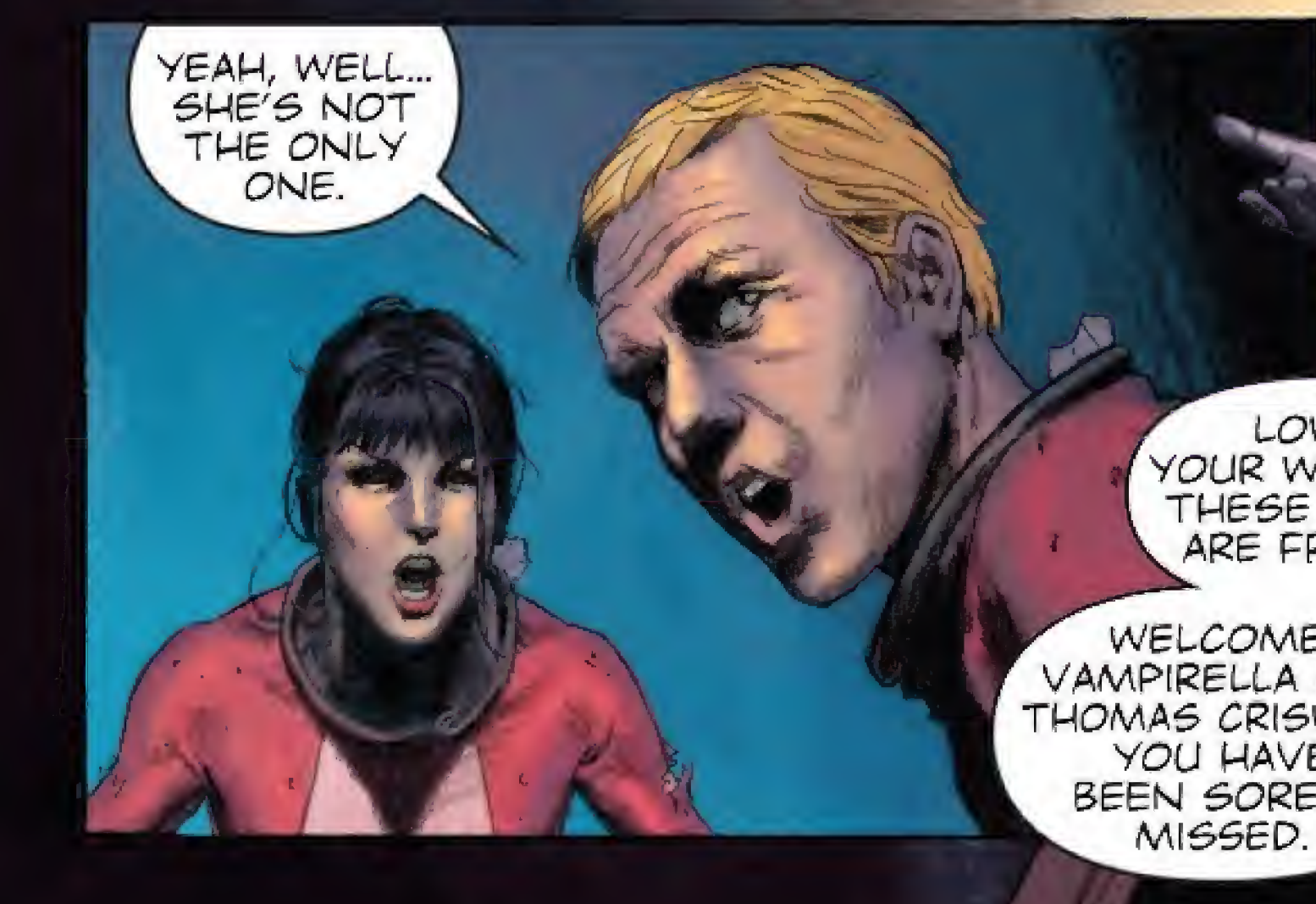


SORRY FOR THE
INCONVENIENCE.
WE'RE JUST WAITING
FOR OUR OVERSEER
TO GET HERE.


WAIT
NO LONGER,
KURT. SHE'S
HERE.



AND SHE
CANNOT
BELIEVE HER
EYES.

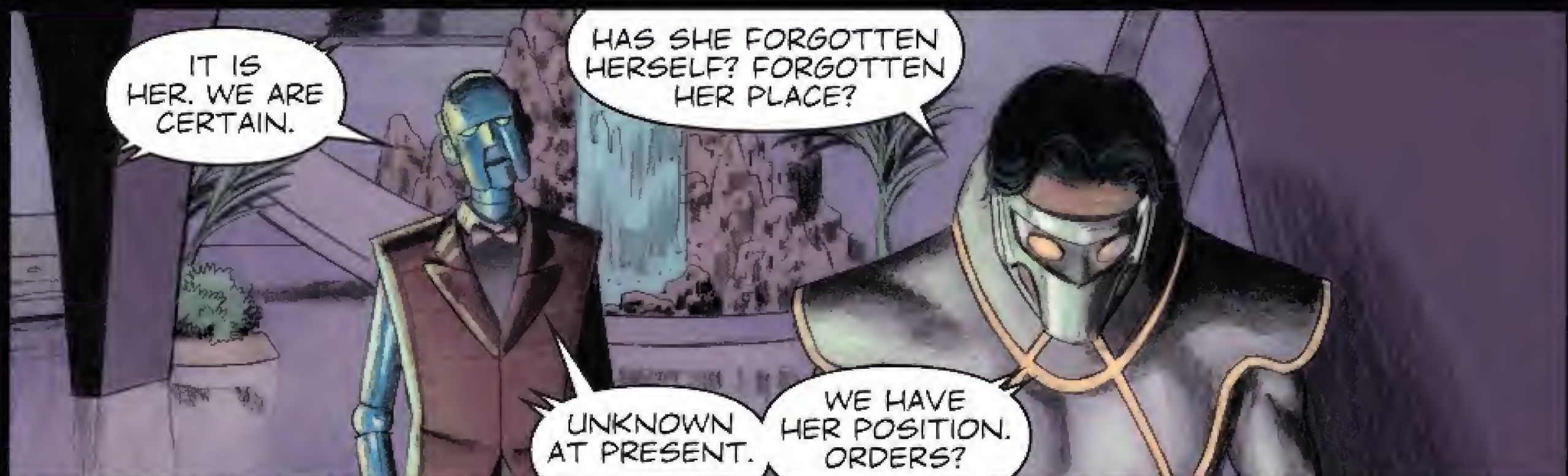


YEAH, WELL...
SHE'S NOT
THE ONLY
ONE.



LOWER
YOUR WEAPONS.
THESE PEOPLE
ARE FRIENDS.

WELCOME,
VAMPIRELLA AND
THOMAS CRISWELL.
YOU HAVE
BEEN SORELY
MISSED.





HOW DID YOU COME TO BE HERE? DID LUKAS...ER, HAVE YOU MET LUKAS?

I KNOW HE'S MY SON, PANTHA. HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO SENT US HERE, THOUGH.

QUATERMASS.

I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU BOTH, BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DISGUSTING.

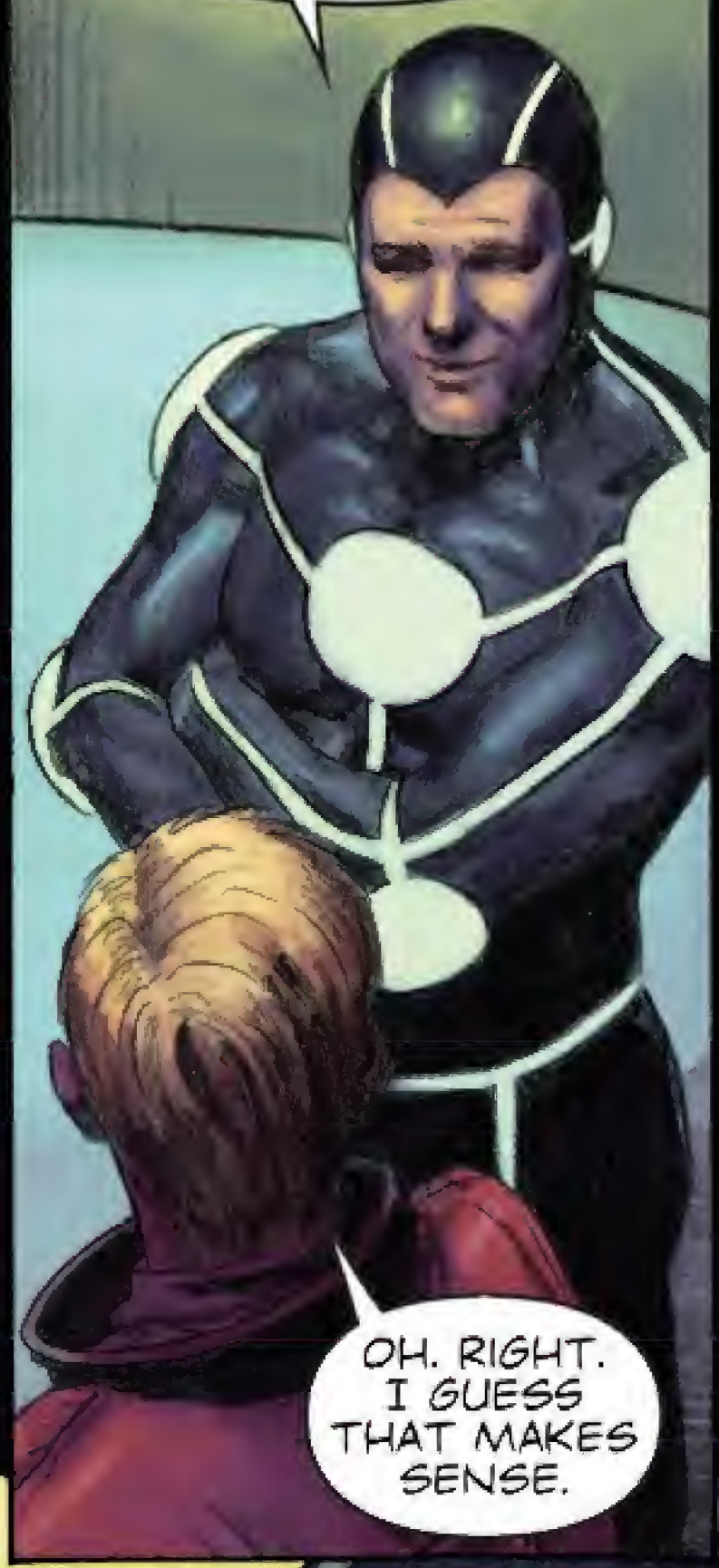
HOW EXACTLY ARE WE "HERE", ANYWAY? QUATERMASS SLAPPED SOME HELMETS ON US BACK IN THE 21ST CENTURY...



PSYCHO-TEMPORAL PROJECTION.

YOUR MINDS HAVE BEEN PROJECTED INTO SIMULACRUM BODIES...

...NEAR-PERFECT APPROXIMATIONS OF PEOPLE WITH GENE-CODES ON RECORD, BUT WHO NO LONGER HAVE...UH...EXISTING BODIES IN OUR TIME.



OH. RIGHT. I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.



LEVEL WITH ME, PANTHA.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO LUKAS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HIS TRIP TO OUR TIME PERIOD?



WE'RE HERE.



THIS IS THE KINGDOM
OF THE REJECTED.
IT'S NOT MUCH TO
LOOK AT, AS THEY
SAY...

...BUT
IT IS OUR
HOME.

YOU ASKED ABOUT YOUR SON'S
FATE. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU
THAT THE FUTURE REMAINS
IN MOTION FOR NOW.

WHATEVER THE
OUTCOME OF
LUKAS'S MISSION,
HOWEVER...



...IT ALL
COMES DOWN
TO A FINAL
CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN TWO
LEADERS. ONE
WEARS THE
SILVER HELM
OF ORDER...



...AND THE OTHER,
THE BLACK CROWN
OF CHAOS.

PROFESSOR
QUATERMASS SEEKS
TO DESTROY BOTH
LEADERS. HE STANDS
IN THE GRAY SPACE,
THE PLACE
IN-BETWEEN.

YOUR SON
IS THE FIRST
ONE WHO DARED
TO STEP INTO
THAT SPACE
TO CONFRONT
HIM.

SHRAKA-

KOOOOM

NO. NOT NOW--

VAMPIRELLA!

SURRENDER NOW.

WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.





HHYAAAAAGGGH!

FRAAAZAK



HUUUNH!



LILITH?
YOU...YOU DID
THIS? YOU
SAVED ME?



SHE
DID.

WELCOME
BACK TO
THE LAND OF
THE LIVING,
SON.



WAIT.
WHERE'S
GRIGORY?

HE TECHNICALLY SAVED US
FROM QUATERMASS AND
HIS HUNTSMEN, BUT ONLY
TO SERVE HIS OWN
SELFISH NEEDS.

HE LEFT WITH
A TRIO OF WITCHES.
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WE'VE SEEN THE
LAST OF HIM.



HE CAN'T BE GONE!
HE'S THE KEY TO MY
ENTIRE PLAN!

MEANING WHAT,
EXACTLY?

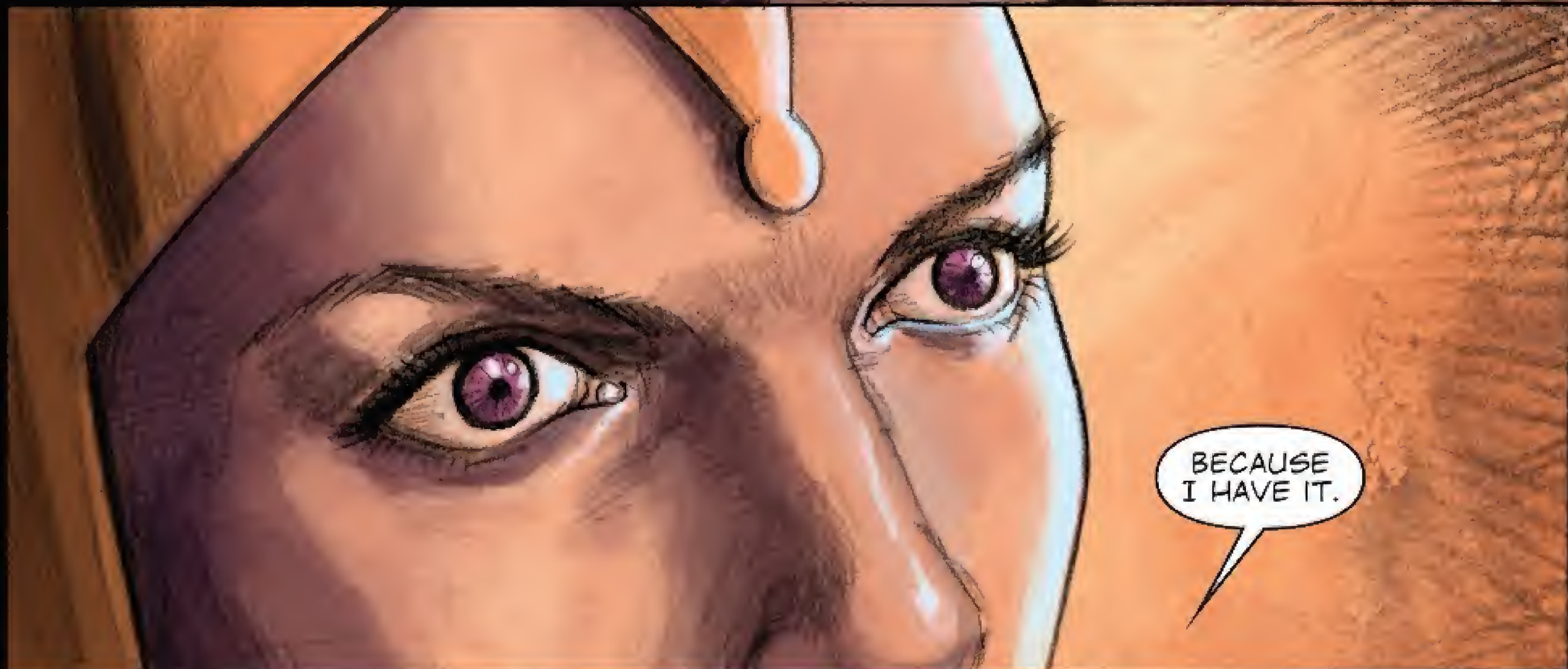


GRIGORY WAS
DECEIVING ME, BUT
I KNEW IT.

I WAS ONLY
PRETENDING TO
FALL FOR IT A LITTLE
LONGER, BECAUSE I
KNEW HE HAD THE
MEANS TO OBTAIN
THE BLACK CROWN
OF CHAOS.

LUKAS, I GUARANTEE YOU
THAT GRIGORY COULDN'T
POSSIBLY GET NEAR THE
BLACK CROWN.

HOW
CAN YOU BE
SURE?



BECAUSE
I HAVE IT.



FZAK

CALL FOR
REINFORCEMENTS!
THEY MUST
NOT ENTER THE
BASE!



YOU
NEED TO
GET BACK
INSIDE--

NO.

IF THEY
WANT ME,
THEY CAN TRY
THEIR BEST
TO TAKE
ME.



GRRRAAAGH!

FRAZAK



FORM UP
AND CREATE
A WIDE FIELD
OF FIRE.



HRRRKK!

CRISWELL?!

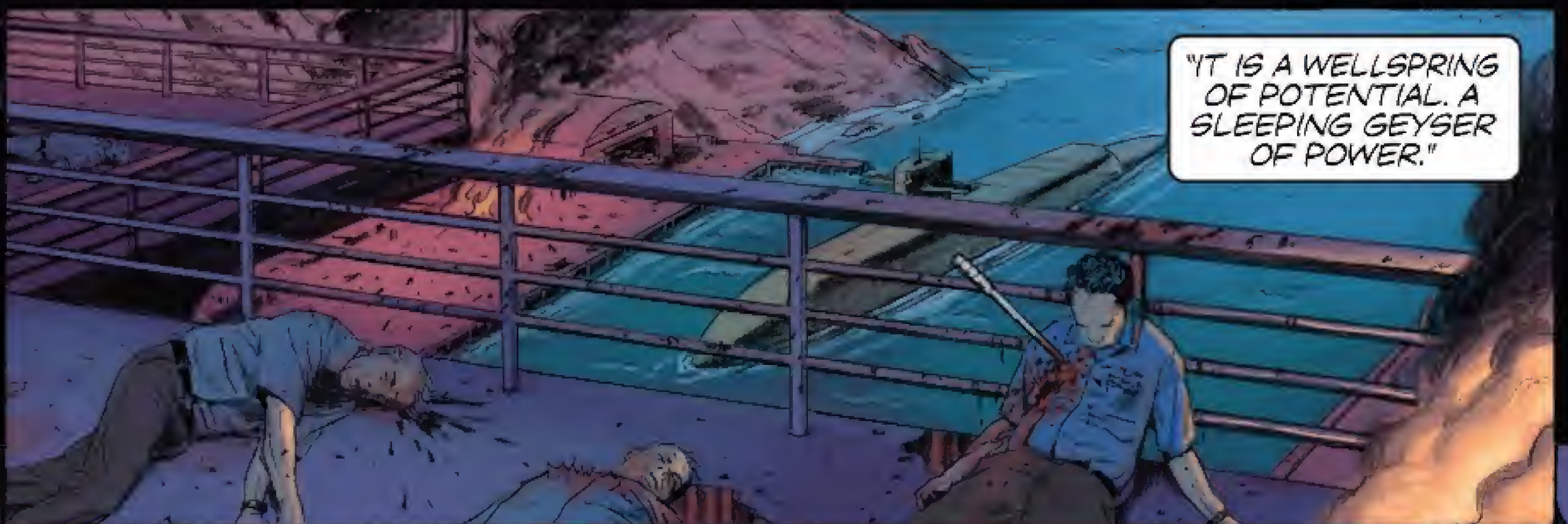




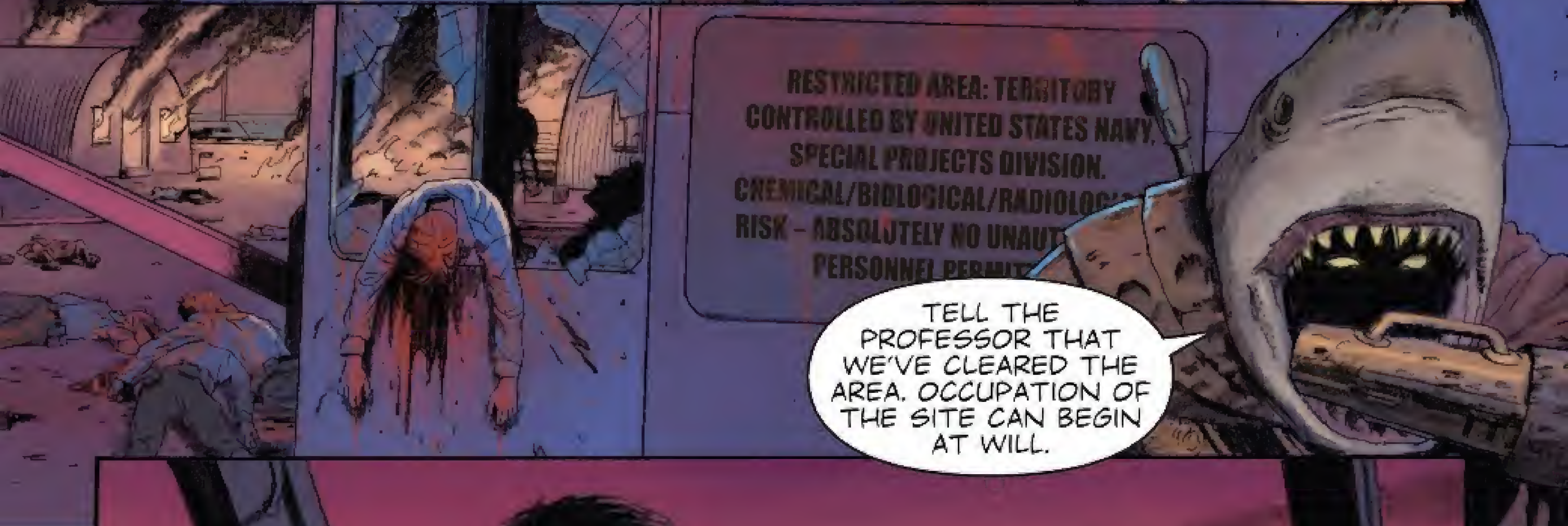
"THIS LOCATION IS ABOUT TO BECOME VERY IMPORTANT."



"WHAT IT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE IS SECONDARY TO WHAT IT CAN BE IN THE PRESENT."



"IT IS A WELLSPRING OF POTENTIAL. A SLEEPING GEYSER OF POWER."



RESTRICTED AREA: TERRITORY
CONTROLLED BY UNITED STATES NAVY,
SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION.
CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL/RADIOLOGICAL
RISK - ABSOLUTELY NO UNAUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL PERMITTED

TELL THE PROFESSOR THAT WE'VE CLEARED THE AREA. OCCUPATION OF THE SITE CAN BEGIN AT WILL.



TELL HIM I'M QUITE PLEASED.

ANCHOR OFF THE COASTLINE, AND PREPARE TO ESTABLISH A FULL BEACHHEAD.

WELCOME HOME. YOU BELONG WITHIN THE LIGHT, VAMPIRELLA.



I WAS SO AFRAID YOU'D FORGOTTEN THAT. YOU WERE GONE FOR SO LONG, BUT I KEPT THE FAITH.



YOUR FOLLOWERS NEED YOU.

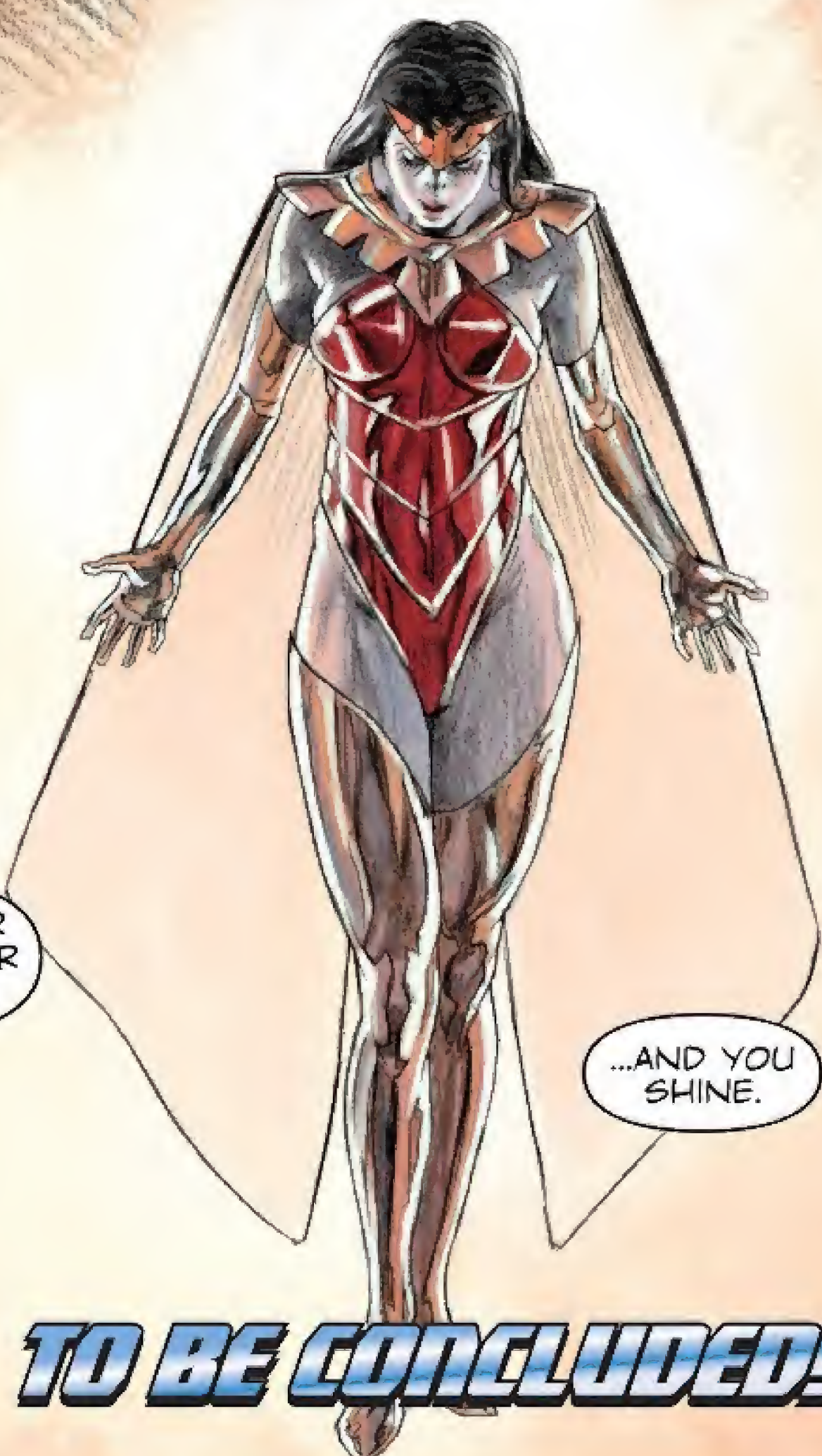
I NEED YOU.

WHAT FOLLOWERS? WHO ARE YOU?

SO, YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN. NO MATTER.

YOU WEAR THE SILVER HELM...

...AND YOU SHINE.



TO BE CONCLUDED!

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FABIANO 13

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"EVERY SYSTEM NEEDS AN ADMINISTRATOR. DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY IS FINE, BUT ONE PERSON HAS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH EVERY ASPECT OF THE OPERATION."

"SOMEONE HAS TO MANAGE THE SCHEDULE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE FATE OF ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE MAY BE RIDING ON YOUR DEADLINES."

"I'M THAT GUY. PEOPLE CALL ME 'HOPPER.'"

"THE BODIES OF VAMPIRELLA AND TOM CRISWELL ARE IN THE PRESENT, BUT THEIR MINDS HAVE BEEN PROJECTED INTO CLONE BODIES THAT ARE KNOCKING AROUND ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE FUTURE."

"VAMPIRELLA'S SON LUKAS CAME HERE FROM THAT SAME FUTURE."

"WITH THE HELP OF HIS MOTHER'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY, LUKAS IS HOPING TO STOP THE VILLAIN OF THIS LITTLE DRAMA."

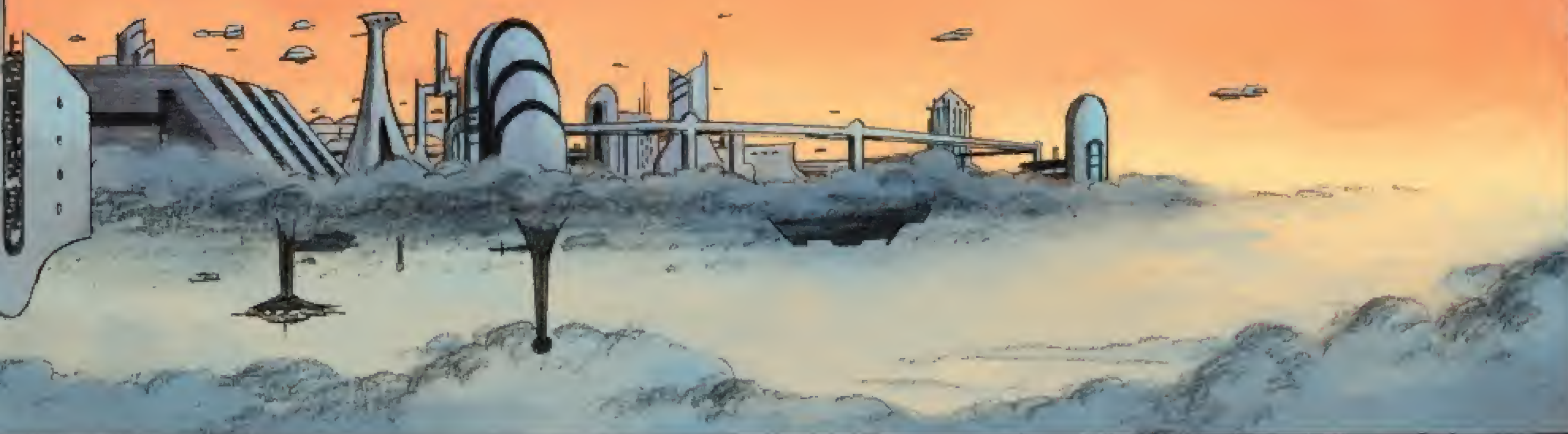
"I WORK FOR THE BASTARD IN QUESTION. I PRETEND TO, ANYWAY."

"I'VE BEEN SECRETLY UNDERMINING PROFESSOR BENJAMIN QUATERMASS AND HIS HUNTSMEN SINCE WE FIRST ARRIVED IN THIS ERA. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, MY EMPLOYMENT ENDS SOON."

"ORDER AND CHAOS ARE GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD TODAY, AND I'M JUST TRYING TO MANAGE EVERYTHING UNTIL THE WORLD ENDS."

"I'M WAY TOO OLD FOR THIS \$#!%."

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE FUTURE
ABOVE THE DEVASTATED EARTH



"A PERFECT
VISION OF
HEAVEN."



I KNEW YOU WOULD
RETURN TO US,
VAMPIRELLA. I KNEW
YOU WOULD COME
BACK TO THE LIGHT
EVENTUALLY.

WE AWAIT
YOUR ORDERS,
MY RADIANT
QUEEN.



SUMMON ALL
THE ANGELS IN OUR
GARRISON, ADAM. TELL
THEM TO ASSEMBLE
FOR BATTLE.

THE
CONFLUENCE
HAS BEGUN. THE
FINALITY IS
UPON US.

PRESENT DAY
ABOVE THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DO YOU
ACCEPT THE
BLACK CROWN
OF CHAOS?

I DO.

I WISH YOU
WOULDN'T,
LUKAS.

HAVE FAITH,
CONJURESS.

I DO THIS FOR
THE GREATER
GOOD.

IF YOU'D LIKE
TO ARGUE THE NET WORTH
OF GOOD INTENTIONS, I'D BE
HAPPY TO EDUCATE YOU.

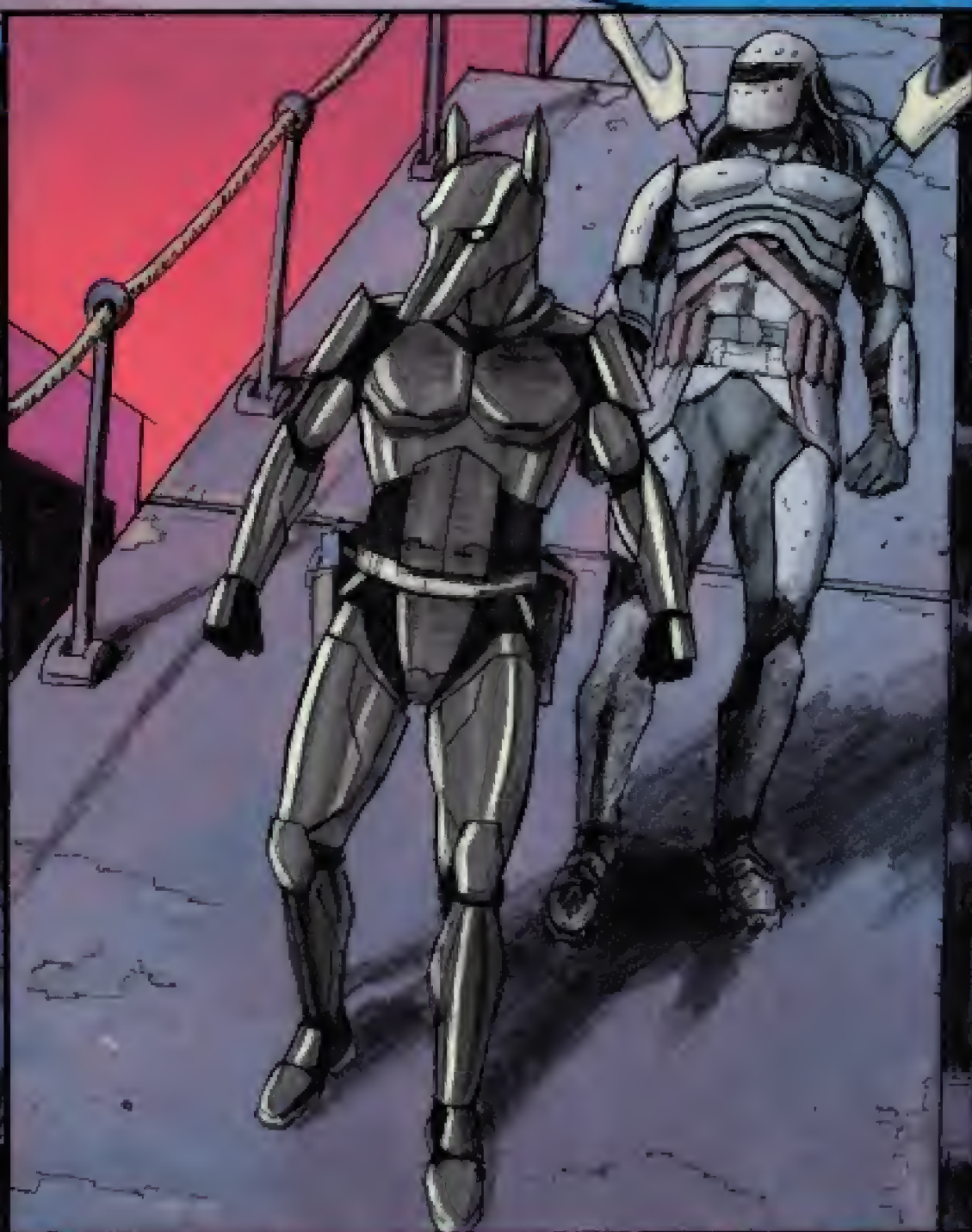
I HOPE WE
CAN SAVE THAT
DISCUSSION FOR
ANOTHER TIME.

PLEASE...TAKE
ME TO THE TARGET
AREA IMMEDIATELY.
QUATERMASS IS
ALREADY ONE STEP
AHEAD OF US...



"...AND HE'S IN QUITE A HURRY TO SEE US ALL DESTROYED."

UNITED STATES NAVY SPECIAL PROJECTS LAB
CODE NAME: "METRONOME"
TEMPORAL-FOCUSED ENERGY REACTOR
PACIFIC OCEAN



DID YOU SPARE HIM, AS ORDERED?

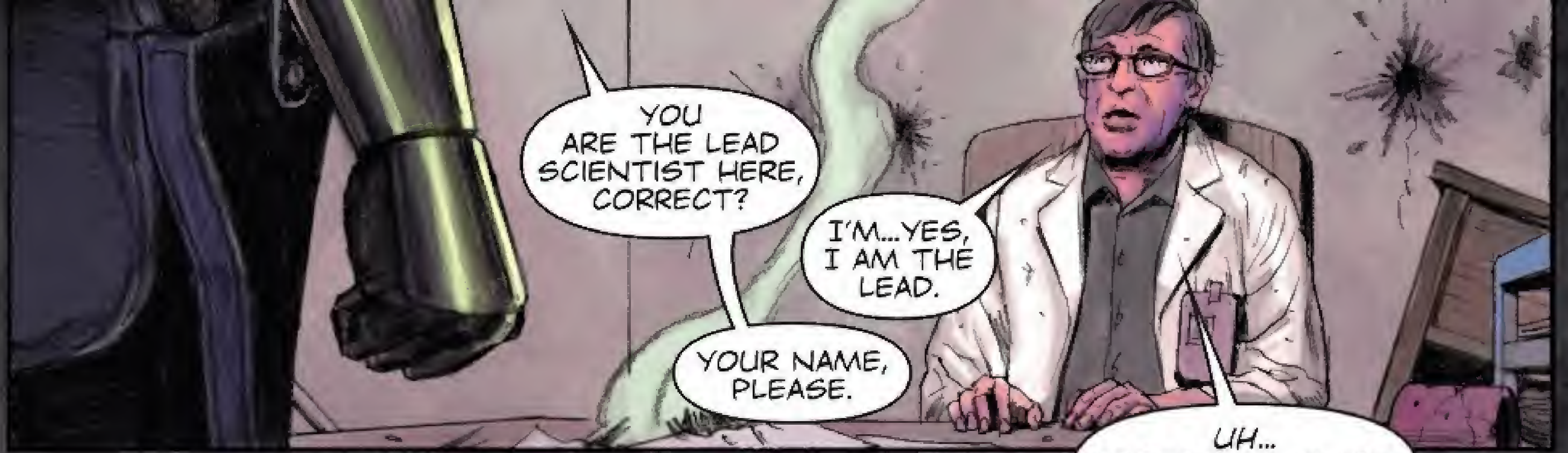
YES, PROFESSOR. YOU'LL FIND HIM IN THE SECURITY OFFICE.



WAIT HERE.



THIS IS A PRIVATE MATTER. FAMILY BUSINESS.



YOU ARE THE LEAD SCIENTIST HERE, CORRECT?

I'M...YES, I AM THE LEAD.

YOUR NAME, PLEASE.

UH... PROFESSOR SIMON QUATERMASS.



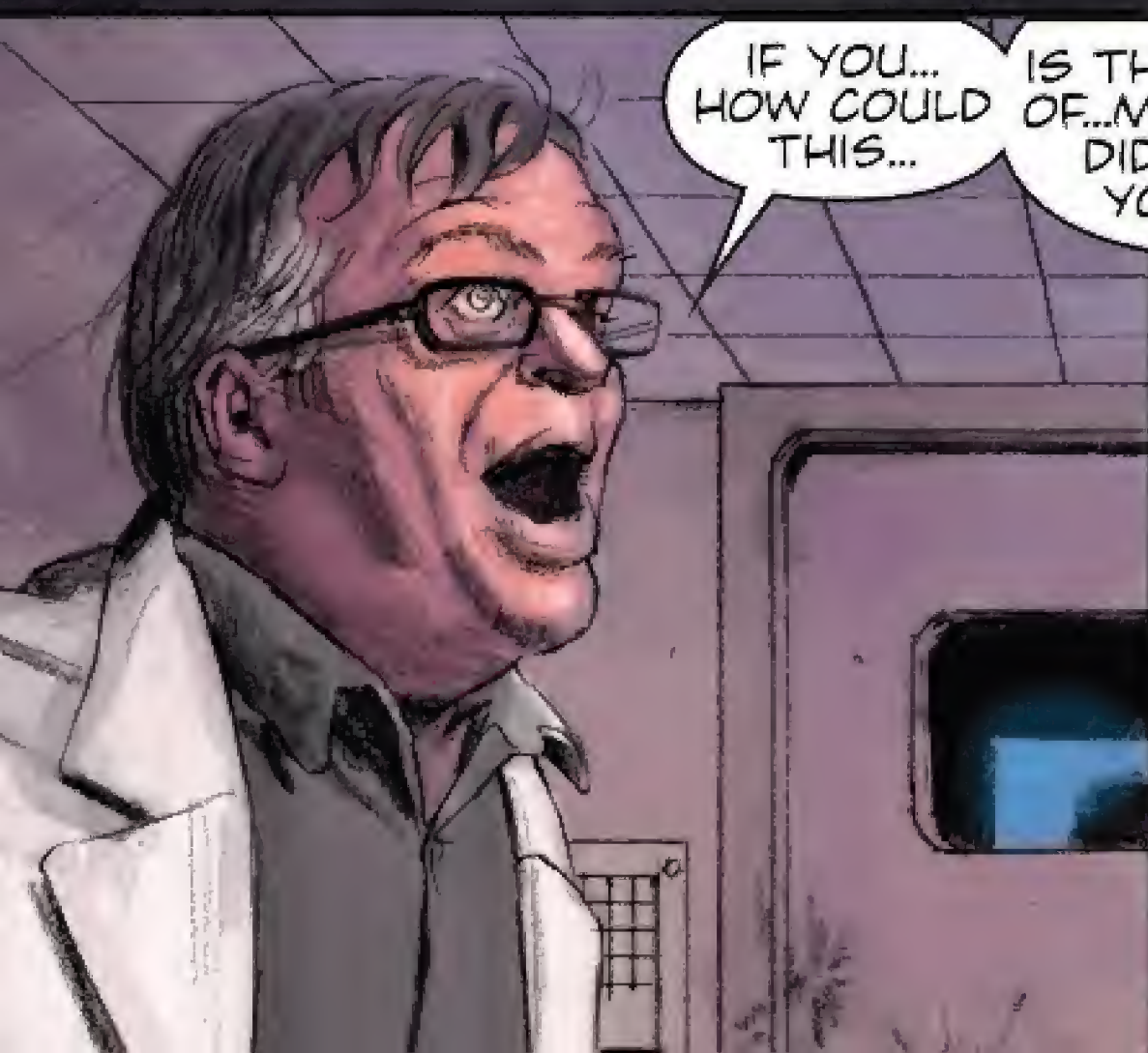
IT'S A GENUINE PLEASURE AND A TRUE HONOR TO MEET YOU.

MY NAME'S BENJAMIN, SIR. BENJAMIN QUATERMASS.

I'M YOUR GREAT-GRAND SON, SIR.



YOU'RE MY...WHAT?



IF YOU... HOW COULD THIS...

IS THIS BECAUSE OF...MY REACTOR? DID IT BRING YOU HERE?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, MY PRESENCE HERE CAN BE TRACED DIRECTLY BACK TO YOUR REACTOR.

WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE CONTROL ROOM? I CAN TELL YOU HOW I CAME TO BE HERE...



...AND YOU CAN SHOW ME YOUR INCREDIBLE INVENTION.

YOUR WORK HARNESSING TEMPORAL ENERGY WAS A HUGE INFLUENCE ON MY OWN EXPERIMENTS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO...WE WERE ATTACKED...

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT, SIMON--HOW COULD YOU, REALLY? --BUT TODAY IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY IN HISTORY.

THIS IS THE DAY WHEN YOU FIRST SUCESSFULLY TESTED YOUR ENERGY REACTOR.

WHAT?
NO, THAT'S WRONG!
THE REACTOR ISN'T GOING TO BE TESTED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS--

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO ACCELERATE YOUR SCHEDULE, SIR.

I DO HOPE THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.



A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, THIS DAY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE TURNING POINT FOR ALL OF HUMANITY.

TRUST ME ON THIS. I AM FROM THE FUTURE, AFTER ALL...



WE'RE MOVING TO ELEVATED SECURITY STATUS, OVERSEER SEKHMET. ANY FURTHER ORDERS?

GATHER EVERYONE TOGETHER. I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL BE MAKING OUR FINAL STAND VERY SOON.

PLEASE, PANTHA...TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET VAMPIRELLA BACK.

WE WILL BE PUSHED INTO ACTION SOON ENOUGH, AND I AM CERTAIN WE WILL SEE VAMPIRELLA AGAIN WHEN THAT TIME COMES.



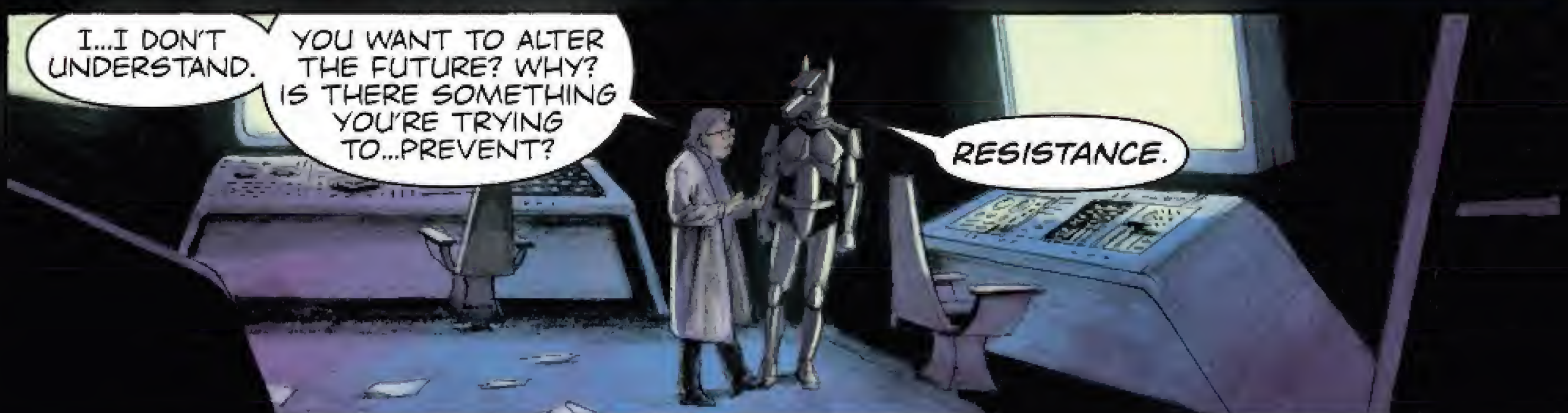
KURT, WOULD YOU MIND TAKING CRISWELL TO THE PROJECTION ROOM?



GOOD IDEA. I ASSUME YOU'RE AWARE OF THE CURRENT TIME?



PAINFULLY SO. GO NOW, AND WAIT FOR ORDERS.





YOURS WILL BE THE HAND OF SHIFTING FATE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE THE CHOICE--THE ACT OF CONSCIOUS WILL--AND BRING THE REACTOR TO LIFE.



THE PALM SCANNER, GREAT-GRANDFATHER. NOW, IF YOU PLEASE.



HOW IS YOUR SON? IS MY GRANDFATHER BEING WELL CARED FOR WHILE YOU'RE AWAY AT WORK?

HE'S...YES, HE'S AWAY AT SCHOOL. SAFE AND SOUND.



THAT'S A RELIEF. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT YOUR COWARDICE TO ALTER THE CONTINUITY OF OUR FAMILY'S PERSONAL TIMELINE.





SEKHMET!

THE HOUR
OF JUDGMENT
IS UPON YOU!

I WOULD
TELL YOU AND
YOUR DEMONS
TO PRAY...

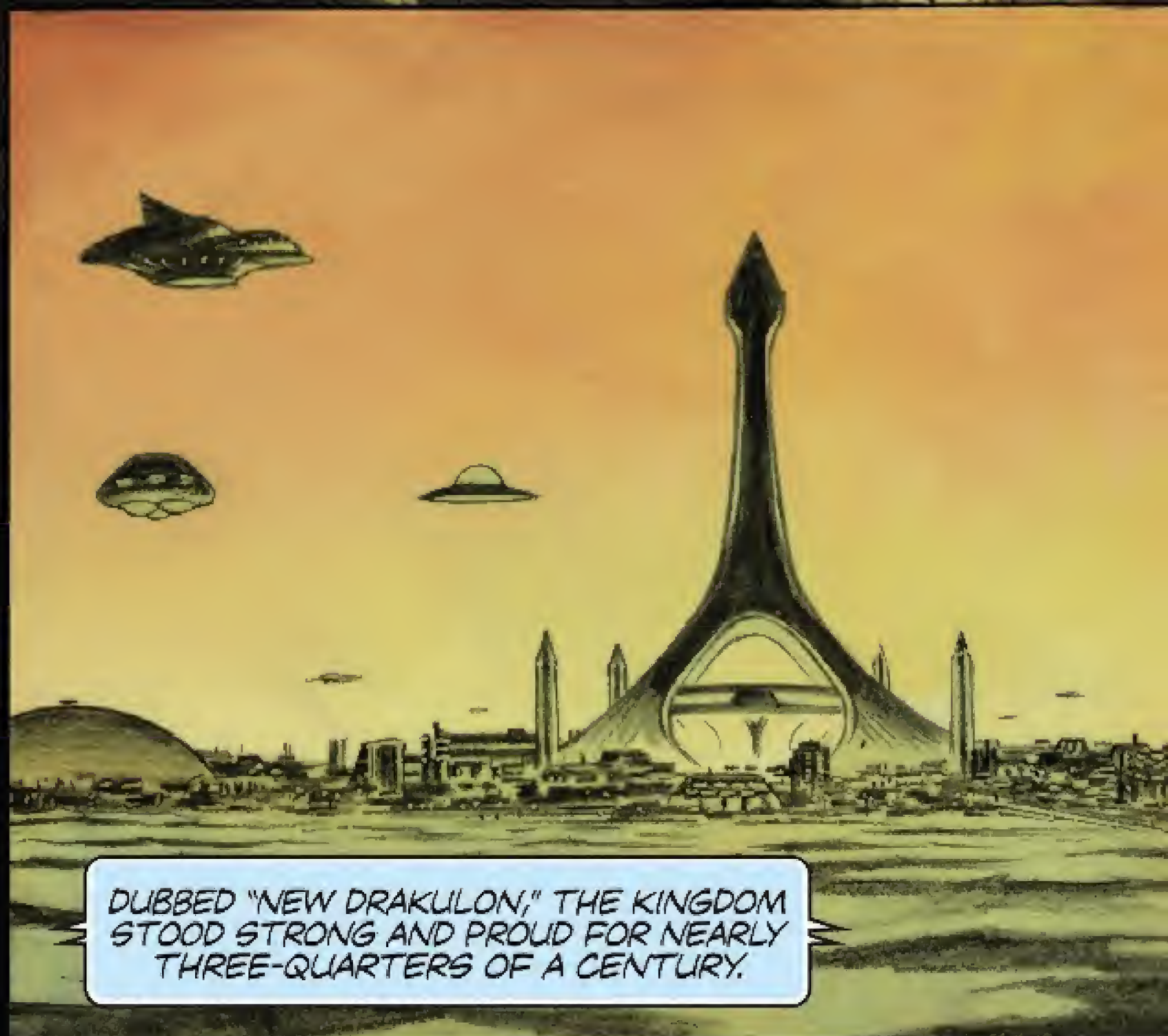
...BUT
THERE'S NO
REDEMPTION
FOR YOU
NOW.



THERE CAME A DAY WHEN
VAMPIRELLA--FEELING
SHUNNED AND ANTAGONIZED
BY HUMANITY--ESTABLISHED
A PRIVATE KINGDOM IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN
EUROPE.

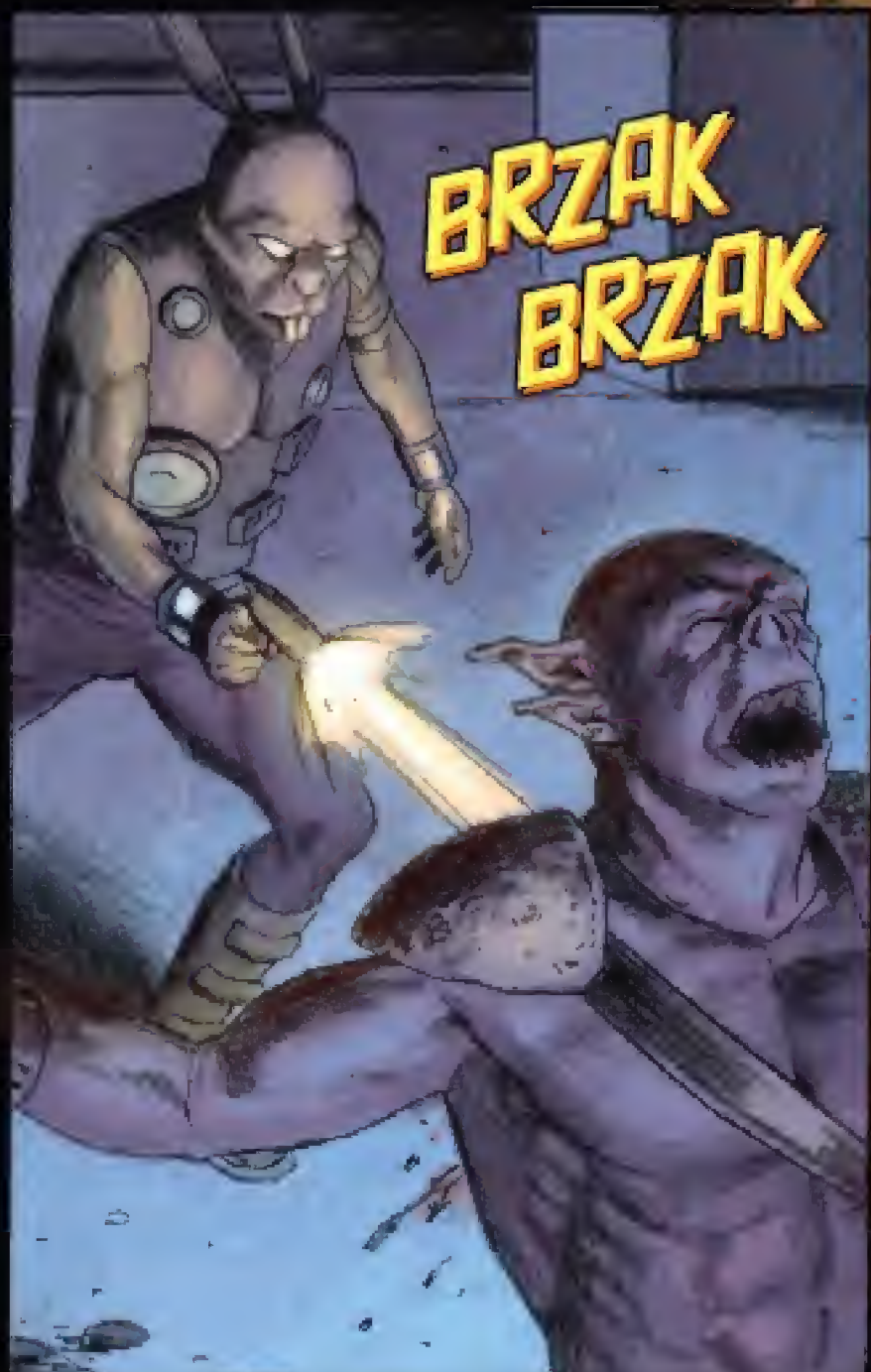


THIS PLACE WOULD BECOME
A HAVEN FOR ALL THE
SO-CALLED MONSTERS AND
OUTCASTS OF THE WORLD.

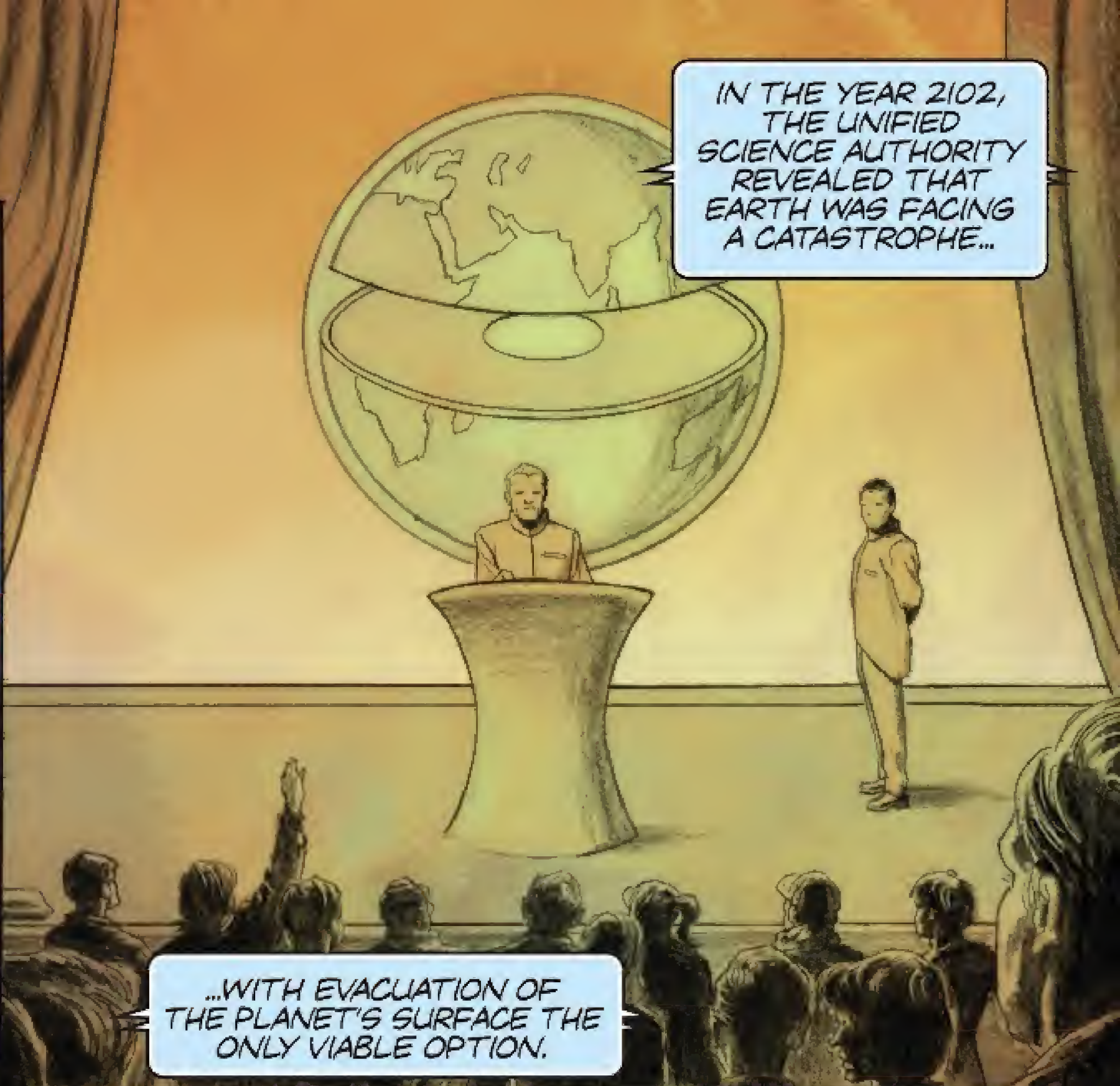


DUBBED "NEW DRAKULON," THE KINGDOM
STOOD STRONG AND PROUD FOR NEARLY
THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.



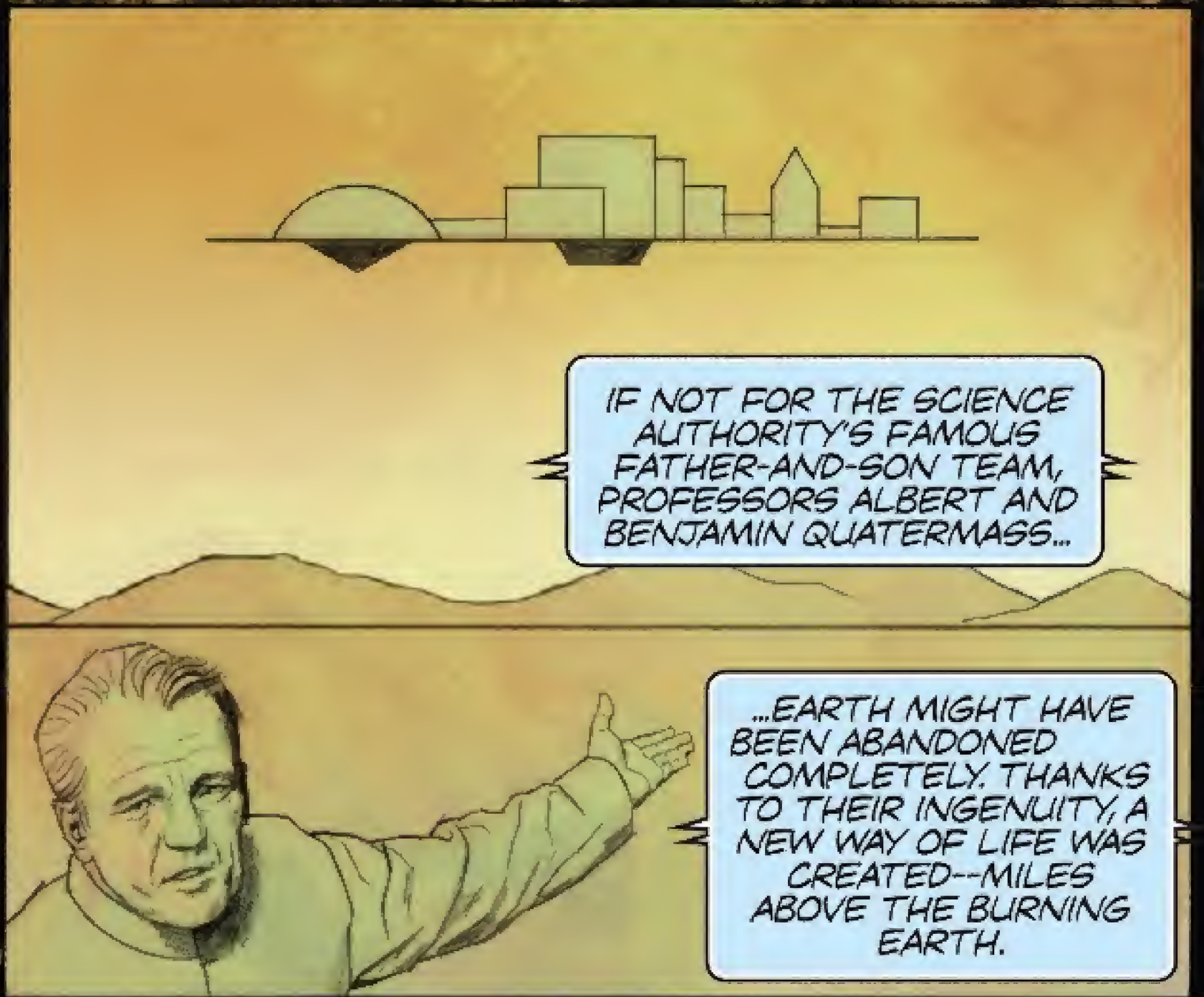


**BRZAK
BRZAK**



IN THE YEAR 2102,
THE UNIFIED
SCIENCE AUTHORITY
REVEALED THAT
EARTH WAS FACING
A CATASTROPHE...

...WITH EVACUATION OF
THE PLANET'S SURFACE THE
ONLY VIABLE OPTION.



IF NOT FOR THE SCIENCE
AUTHORITY'S FAMOUS
FATHER-AND-SON TEAM,
PROFESSORS ALBERT AND
BENJAMIN QUATERMASS...

...EARTH MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ABANDONED
COMPLETELY. THANKS
TO THEIR INGENUITY, A
NEW WAY OF LIFE WAS
CREATED--MILES
ABOVE THE BURNING
EARTH.

**ENERGY PULSE REACTOR
ACTIVATION SEQUENCE INITIATED.**

**beep
beep
beep boooooop
breeeep**



SO...KURT, RIGHT?

I THOUGHT QUATERMASS WAS THE PROBLEM. THIS MAKES IT SOUND LIKE HE WAS THE SOLUTION.

VAMPIRELLA AND I...WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT BACK IN TIME, ARE WE?

HE COULD'VE BEEN, IF HE HADN'T COMPLETELY SNAPPED. A MESSIAH COMPLEX IS A FUNNY THING FOR AN ATHEIST MAN OF SCIENCE TO GRAPPLE WITH...

OUR BRAINS, I MEAN...BACK INTO OUR BODIES.



WE NEED PERFECT TIMING FROM HERE ON OUT. CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS A BEAT, GOT IT?

UNDERSTOOD. ARE YOU ON SCHEDULE?



YOU CAN SET YOUR WATCH BY ME. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PROFESSOR?

YOU SNIVELING LITTLE TURNCOAT.



HAVE FAITH, CRISWELL. I'M SURE THIS OLD RABBIT'S GOT ONE MORE LAST-MINUTE RESCUE IN HIM.

WAIT... YOU'RE HIM?



FATHER... GRANDMOTHER...

...I'M BETTER FOR HAVING KNOWN YOU HERE.



IF YOU'RE HOPPER...

THEN HOW AM I HERE? WELL, I'M THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE. I CAN BE EVERYWHERE...



IT'S TOO LATE. I'M SURE YOU'VE DONE THE MATH, RIGHT DOWN TO THE NANOSECOND...

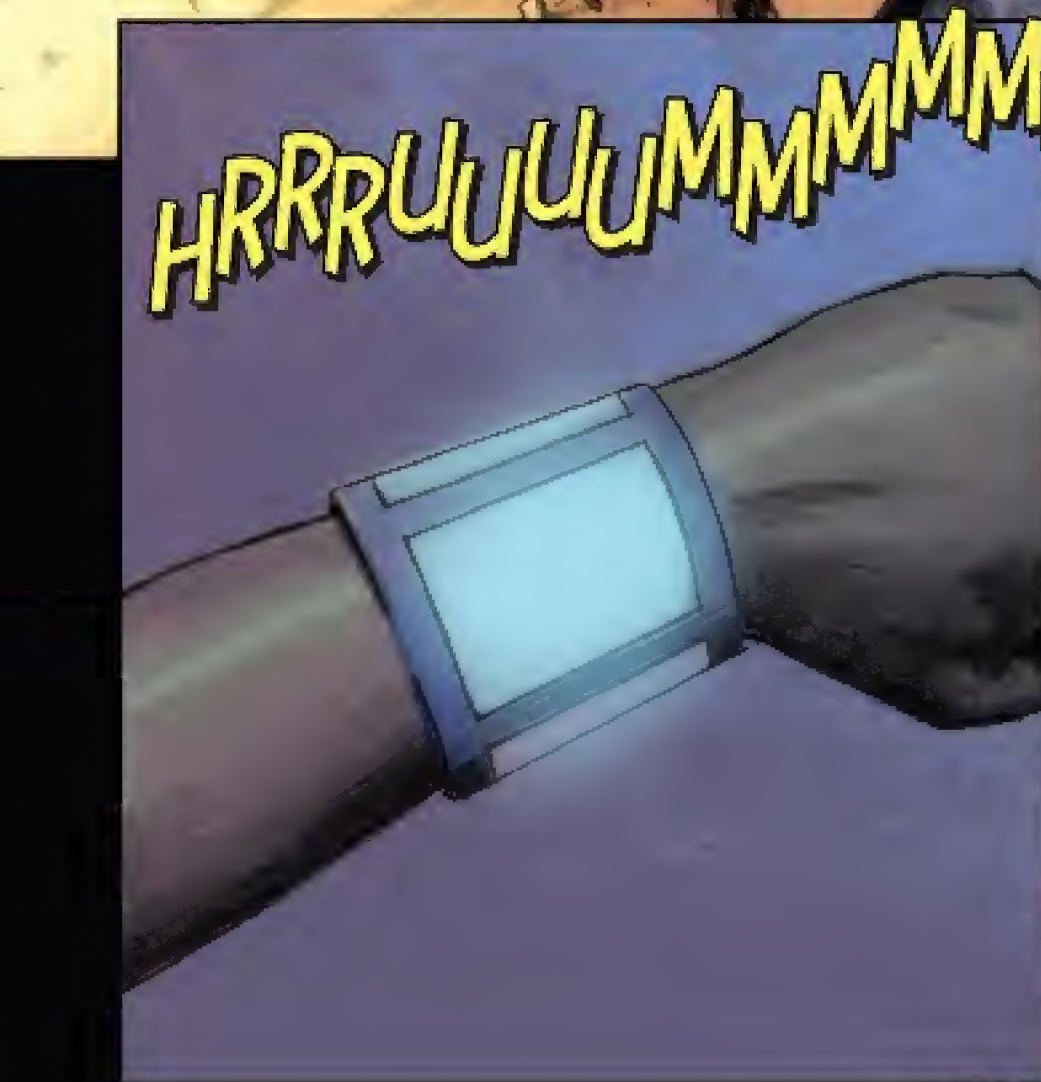
...BUT YOU'RE JUST TOO LATE.

THRUUMMMMMMM



WE SHALL RESTORE THE RULE OF ORDER!

SHRUUKK



HRRRUUUUMMMMMMM



ENERGY EVENT LEVELS HAVE REACHED CRITICAL MASS.

I LOVE YOU. IF YOU SEE MY MOTHER AGAIN...

WE'LL MAKE SURE SHE KNOWS, SON.





WHUMWHUMWHUMWHUMWHUUUMMMM

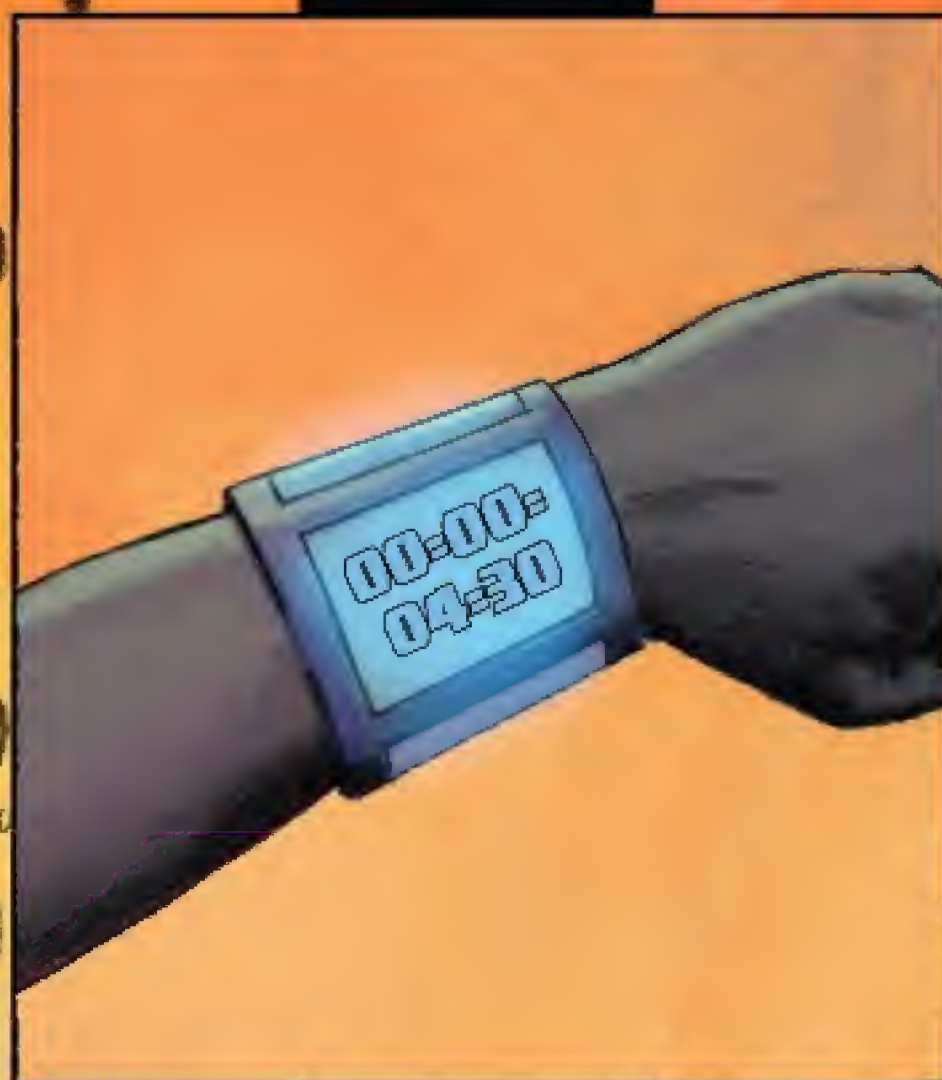
BWHAHAHAHAHAUUUM



NOW!



BWOM



NOT
TOO LATE.
NOT YET...



BWOM







I FINALLY
HAVE REAL
POWER!

I WON'T
LET YOU TAKE
IT FROM ME--



DROP
THE SWORD.
NOW.



WE CAN SAVE VAMPIRELLA,
LUKAS. WE STILL HAVE
TIME TO TRANSFER HER
MIND BACK TO WHERE
IT BELONGS...

...BUT
WE HAVE TO
DO IT RIGHT
NOW.



KURT?



00:00-
00:59



OH, SATYR
AND CIRCE...

I'M SORRY,
MOTHER. I'M
SO SORRY.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, SON. WE BOTH LOST OURSELVES FOR A WHILE, BUT WE'RE FINE NOW.



THAT WILL CHANGE VERY QUICKLY, IF WE DON'T MAKE THE TRANSFER.



THERE'S THE SIGNAL. WE HAVE TO MAKE THE TRANSFER NOW, OR--



YOU WILL NOT TAKE HER AGAIN!



FRAZAK

SHE'S MINE!
SHE'S ALWAYS
BEEN MINE!

No!



EEEEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAA



DID YOU
SEE---?!



DID HE
MAKE IT?

DID HE
MAKE IT
BACK?!

HE LOVED
ME. THOMAS
CRISWELL
LOVED ME.

WE BOTH
KNEW IT WOULD NEVER BE
ANYTHING MORE, BUT HE NEVER
COMPLAINED ABOUT THAT. I'D
CATCH HIM SMILING AT ME FROM
ACROSS THE ROOM SOMETIMES,
LIKE HOW A TEENAGE BOY LOOKS
AT HIS HOMEROOM
CRUSH.

HIS DEVOTION NEVER WAVERED.
NO MATTER HOW DARK THE
SKIES, OR HOW HIGH
THE FLAMES...

...CRISWELL
WAS ALWAYS
THERE.

FOR
ALL OF
US.

I COULD HAVE
FALLEN IN LOVE WITH
HIM ANY TIME. I KNOW
ADAM WOULDN'T MIND
ME SAYING SO; EVEN
HE COULD SEE IT.

I COULD HAVE,
BUT I DIDN'T...
BECAUSE I KNEW I
COULD NEVER, EVER BE
STRONG ENOUGH TO
LOVE THOMAS
CRISWELL THE WAY
THAT HE LOVED
ME.

I'LL SEE
YOU IN THE
NEXT LIFE.

THE END

DYNAMITE
32

VAMPIRELLA®



FABIANO

DYNAMITE
32

VAMPIRELLA®





TEN YEARS AGO*: VAMPIRELLA, PENDRAGON, AND ADAM VAN HELSING TRAVELED TO THE EXOTIC ISLAND NATION OF COTE DE SOLEIL...

...TO RESCUE ADAM'S FATHER CONRAD FROM A SINISTER BLACK MAGIC CABAL.



*SEE VAMPIRELLA ARCHIVES VOLUME 3.

THE HEROES WERE AIDED BY PAUL GIRAUD, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE VAN HELSING FAMILY.

RESCUING CONRAD WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH. PAUL KNEW THAT MADAME DOMINIQUE AND HER COLLABORATORS HAD A MONSTROUS GRAND PLAN...



...AND HE VOWED TO STOP THEM, OR DIE TRYING.

THE CABAL MADE A PACT WITH THE FORCES OF CHAOS, AND PERFORMED A DARK RITUAL THAT RESURRECTED COTE DE SOLEIL'S DECEASED TYRANT PRESIDENT, JACQUES VALIER...

...BETTER KNOWN TO HIS FOLLOWERS AS PAPA VOUDOU!



THE RESURRECTION SPELL WENT AWRY. THE ENERGY THAT WAS MEANT TO RESTORE PAPA VOUDOU'S SHAMBLING FORM...



...WAS CHANNELLED INTO PAUL GIRAUD'S FATALLY-WOUNDED BODY INSTEAD! THE MONSTER TURNED AGAINST HIS FOLLOWERS, AND THEN RETURNED TO DEATH HIMSELF...

...AND PAUL GIRAUD EVENTUALLY SHARED HIS NEW LIFE WITH THE NATION OF COTE DE SOLEIL BY BECOMING ITS MOST BENEVOLENT LEADER.



WINTER'S END
(IN TRANSIT)
CURRENT LOCATION:
THE SCOTTISH
COUNTRYSIDE

I'M SORRY
FOR THE URGENT
MEETING REQUEST,
PENDRAGON.

PSHAW.
NEVER TOO BUSY
FOR THE SISTERS
OF THE SCARLET
LEGION. WHAT'S
THE TROUBLE?

ONE OF
MY TRAINEES HAD...
AN EPISODE. SHE
BLACKED OUT DURING
A SPARRING SESSION
AND WAS
UNCONSCIOUS FOR
ALMOST TEN
MINUTES.

SHE WOKE
UP AND SAID
SHE'D HAD A
CONFUSING
NIGHTMARE--

--THAT'S NOT
UNCOMMON. THE
STRESS OF A BODY
SHUTTING DOWN
CAN TRIGGER ALL
MANNER OF--

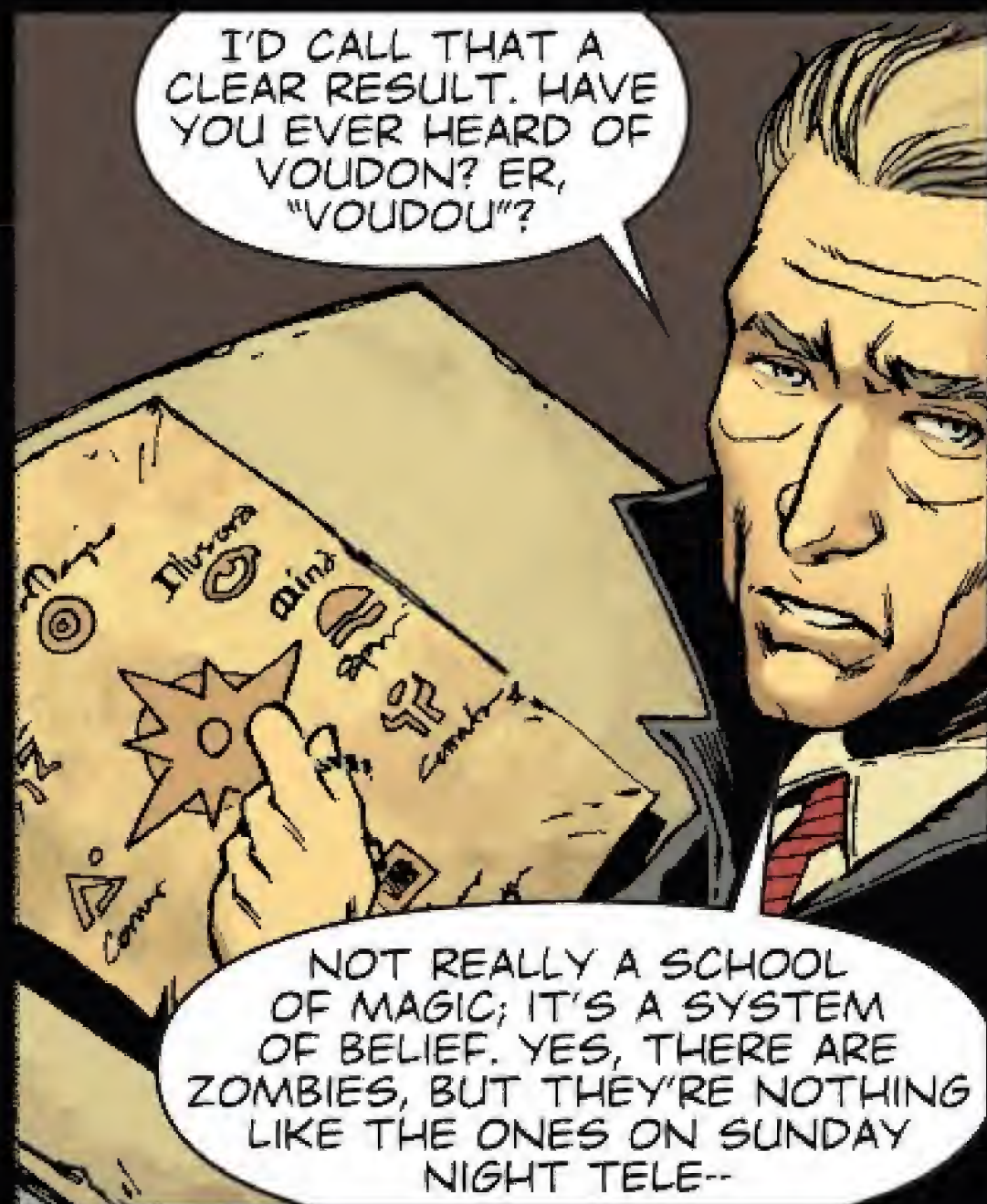
SHE
BEGGED ME TO
BRING HER STRAIGHT
TO YOU. SHE CLAIMS
TO HAVE A MESSAGE
THAT ONLY YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND.

I...SEE.

I'M ON THE CASE,
SISTER BRITTANY.
LET ME SPEAK TO
THE YOUNG LADY,
AND WE'LL SORT
THIS ALL OUT.

GO RELAX. IF YOU
STOP BY THE KITCHEN,
I THINK THE GARGOYLES
ARE MAKING
SNICKERDOODLES.





COTE DE SOLEIL
THE CARIBBEAN
24 HOURS LATER

VAMPIRELLA IN: "THE INHERITANCE" PART 1 (OF 2)

writer: Brandon Jerwa artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes letterer: Marshall Dillon editor: Joe Rybandt
VAMPIRELLA created by FORREST ACKERMAN & TRINA ROBBINS



LADIES, CAN WE
PLEASE STAY
TOGETHER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M SAYING THIS,
BUT I'M WORRIED
I'LL LOSE YOU IN
THE CROWD.



WE'RE FINE,
ADAM.

THIS IS
SIMONE'S FIRST
TIME SEEING THE
CARNIVAL, AND THE
FIRST TIME I HAVEN'T
FOUND IT COMPLETELY
DISTRACTING AND
AGITATING.

BESIDES,
WE'RE STILL
AHEAD OF
SCHEDULE.

I'M SORRY
FOR BEING SLOW.
IT'S ALL SO
BEAUTIFUL, AND THAT
MUSIC JUST MAKES
ME WANT TO GET
OUT THERE AND
DANCE....!



...SO I'M IN FAVOR OF EMBRACING
EVEN THE SMALLEST MOMENTS
OF JOY WHILE WE CAN.



THANK
YOU, MOTHER
HEN.

HEY!

MY
BRAVE AND
HANDSOME
MOTHER HEN,
OF COURSE.



...THIS IS MISTER ZAZOU.
HE CAME HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED.

BONSOIR,
GOOD LADIES AND
GENTLEMAN.



WE'LL LEAVE AT
SUNRISE. ZAZOU SAYS
NIGHT TRAVEL IS
DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY
DURING CARNIVAL.

I ASSUME
PENDRAGON WAS CLEAR
ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS?
YOU UNDERSTAND EXACTLY
WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR?



I KNOW
WHO YOU
SEEK, AND
WHY.

IT WOULD
BE AN HONOR TO
ME, AND MY FAMILY,
TO HELP YOU.



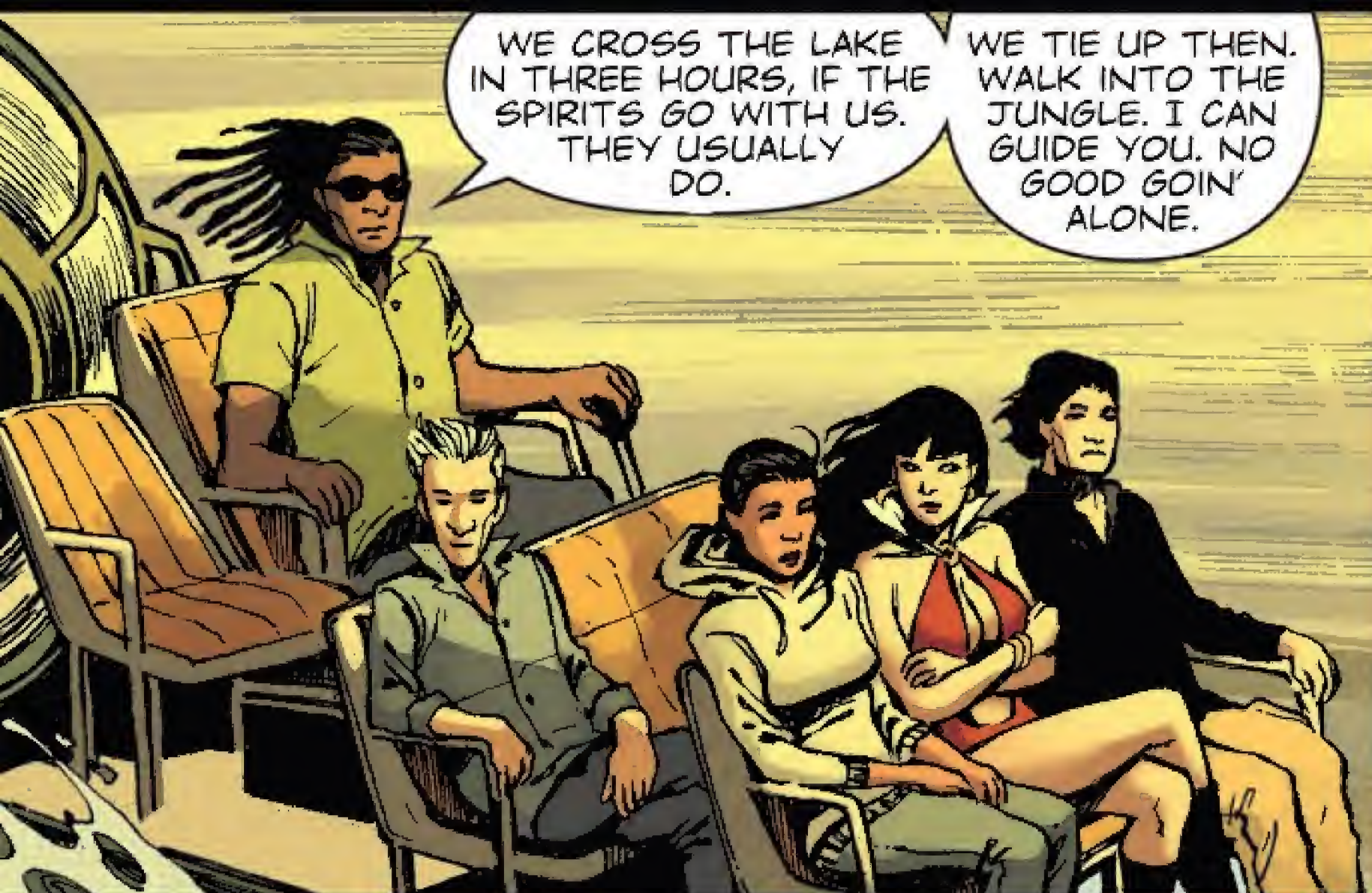
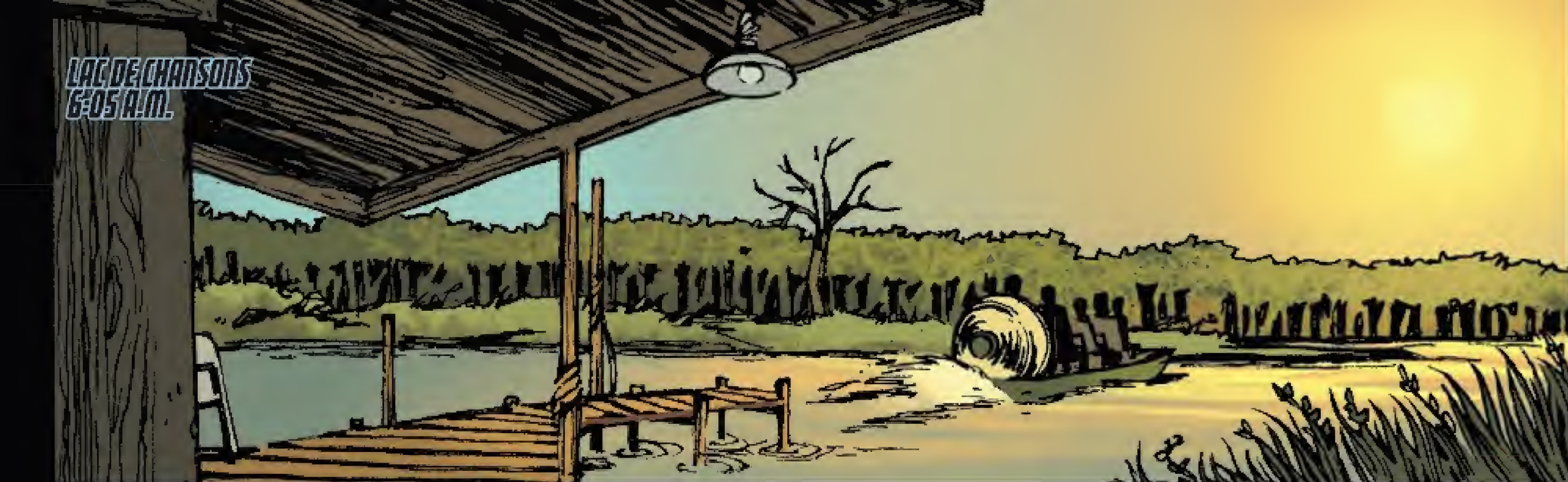
SIMONE?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

I HEARD
SOMETHING. WHISPERS
OR...I DON'T KNOW.



DO YOU
MIND IF I
CHECK INTO
MY ROOM? LIE
DOWN AND
REST?

I THINK
I'M STARTING
TO REMEMBER
SOMETHING.



WE CROSS THE LAKE
IN THREE HOURS, IF THE
SPIRITS GO WITH US.
THEY USUALLY
DO.

WE TIE UP THEN.
WALK INTO THE
JUNGLE. I CAN
GUIDE YOU. NO
GOOD GOIN'
ALONE.



DID YOU
SLEEP?

EVENTUALLY.

I WAS RIGHT. I DID
REMEMBER SOMETHING,
BUT I CAN'T SORT OUT
WHAT IT MEANS.



"I CAN SEE MYSELF
IN THE MEMORY. IT
LOOKS AND FEELS
LIKE IT HAPPENED
ABOUT A YEAR AGO.

"PAUL GIRAUD--I ASSUME--IS THE
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAND. I'M HIS
ASSISTANT. HE'S GIVING A SPEECH
IN FRONT OF A BIG, OLD MANSION.
THE PEOPLE LIKE HIM; THEY
BELIEVE IN WHAT HE'S SAYING.



"ANOTHER DAY. IT MOVES AHEAD
A LITTLE. WE'RE IN THE MANSION,
AT A MEETING. A MILITARY GUARD
COMES IN. HE LOOKS SO WORRIED,
ALMOST SICK.



"I CAN TELL THAT PAUL IS A STRONG MAN, IN SPIRIT. BUT WHEN THE GUARD TELLS US TO LOOK OUT ON THE FRONT LAWN, EVEN PAUL CRACKS A LITTLE; THE REST OF US CRACK MUCH WORSE.



"IT'S AWFUL. A DOZEN BLACKBIRDS, PINNED DOWN WITH KNIVES IN A PERFECT CIRCLE-- A VLOUDOU THREAT.

"THEY'RE STILL ALIVE, BUT THEY CAN'T FLY AWAY. THEY JUST FLUTTER AND SCREAM.



"IN THAT MOMENT, I KNOW--SOMEHOW--THAT THE THREAT COMES FROM A VLOUDOU WARLORD NAMED JAKA.



"MORE TIME PASSES: PAUL AND I SPEND A LOT OF LONG HOURS TOGETHER. WE GET...CLOSE.



"IT GOES ON
LIKE THAT
FOR A WHILE..."

"...BUT WE BOTH KNOW
IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME BEFORE IT'S
GOING TO FALL APART."



DO YOU
TRUST
ME?

OF COURSE.

GOOD.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND
THAT ANYTHING I DO--NO
MATTER HOW BIZARRE OR
MISGUIDED IT MAY SEEM--
I DO FOR THE SAKE OF
PROTECTING THE PEOPLE
I LOVE.

"I ASK HIM WHAT HE
MEANS, BUT I NEVER
GET AN ANSWER."



THAT'S
WHERE IT ENDS.
THE WHOLE THING
IS SO FRUSTRATING!
WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING
TO ME?

WE'LL DO
EVERYTHING
WE CAN TO
FIND OUT.

YOU SAID THE NAME OF
JAKA, MISS. I MUST TELL
YOU THAT WHERE WE GO,
JAKA SITS IN POWER.



MANY PEOPLE
THINK MISTER GIRAUD
HAS FALLEN TO JAKA.
KILLED...OR MAYBE WORSE.



9:30 A.M.



YOU SEE THAT?

WHERE?

THREE O'CLOCK. MOVING FAST.



GET BACK!

TINK

KTINK
TINK



POISON DARTS? HOW QUAIN.

HMM. YOU MIGHT SAY DIFFERENT, IF YOU EVER FEEL THE STING OF ONE.



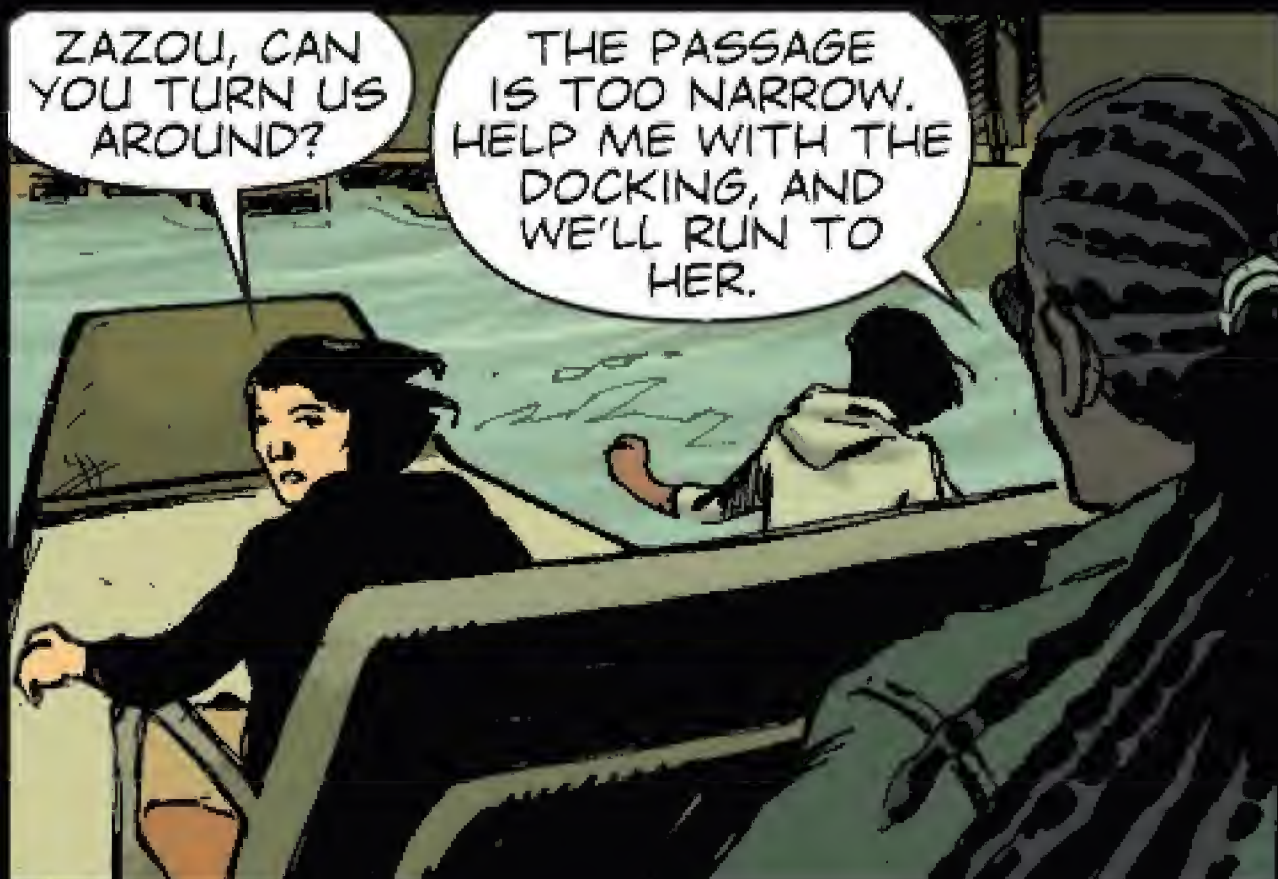
LET'S MAKE SURE NO ONE FEELS THE STING.

VAMPIRELLA, WAIT!



YOU CAN COME AT ME ONE AT A TIME, OR ALL TOGETHER; I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU.

EITHER WAY, IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.



ZAZOU, CAN YOU TURN US AROUND?

THE PASSAGE IS TOO NARROW. HELP ME WITH THE DOCKING, AND WE'LL RUN TO HER.



I'M NOT WAITING.

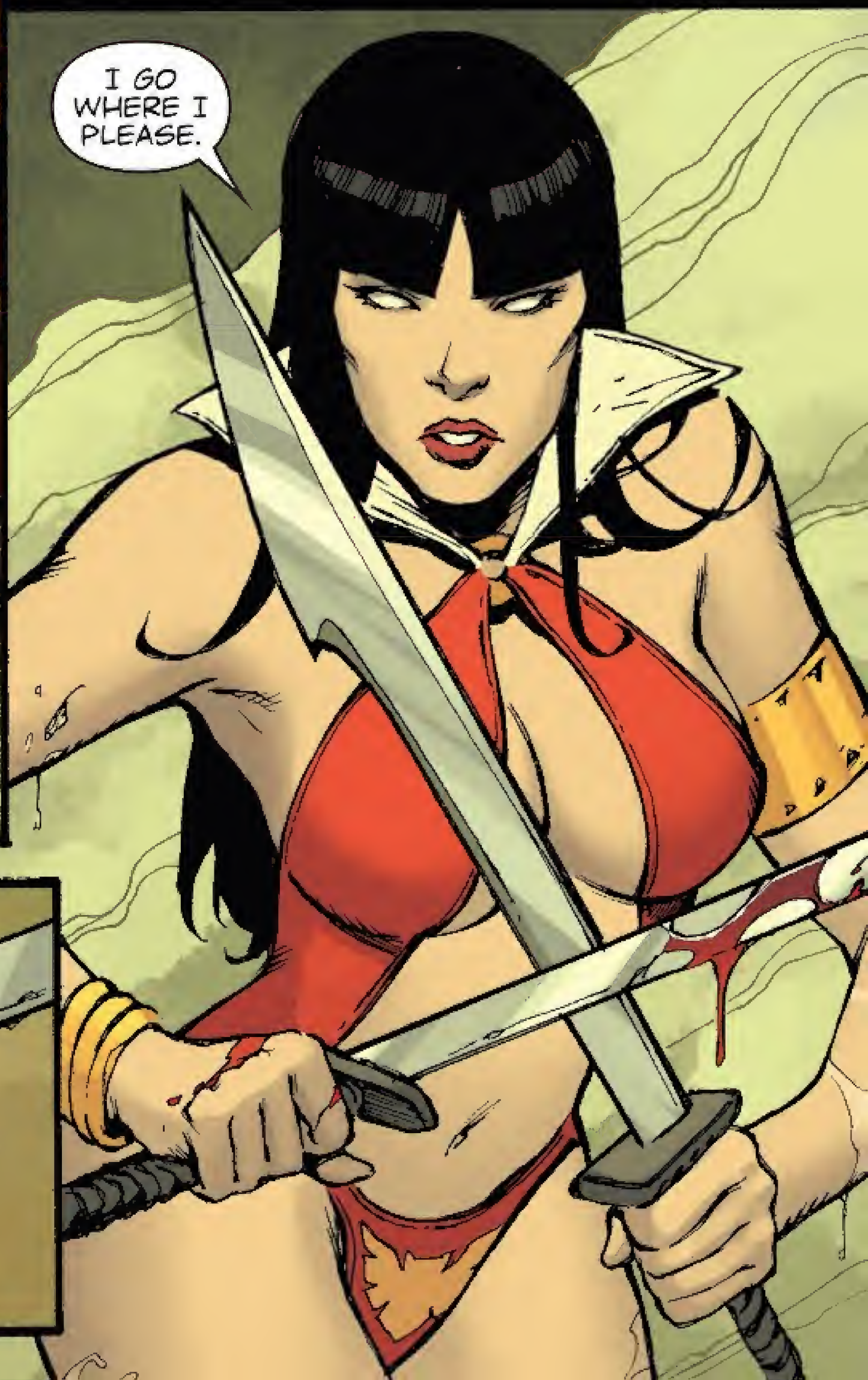
OH, GREAT. I GUESS ALL THE LADIES ARE JUMPING SHIP TODAY!



A SISTER
OF NIGHT
WHO WALKS
IN THE
DAY?



YOU SHOULD
HAVE STAYED IN
THE BLACK,
FEMME DIABLE.



I GO
WHERE I
PLEASE.

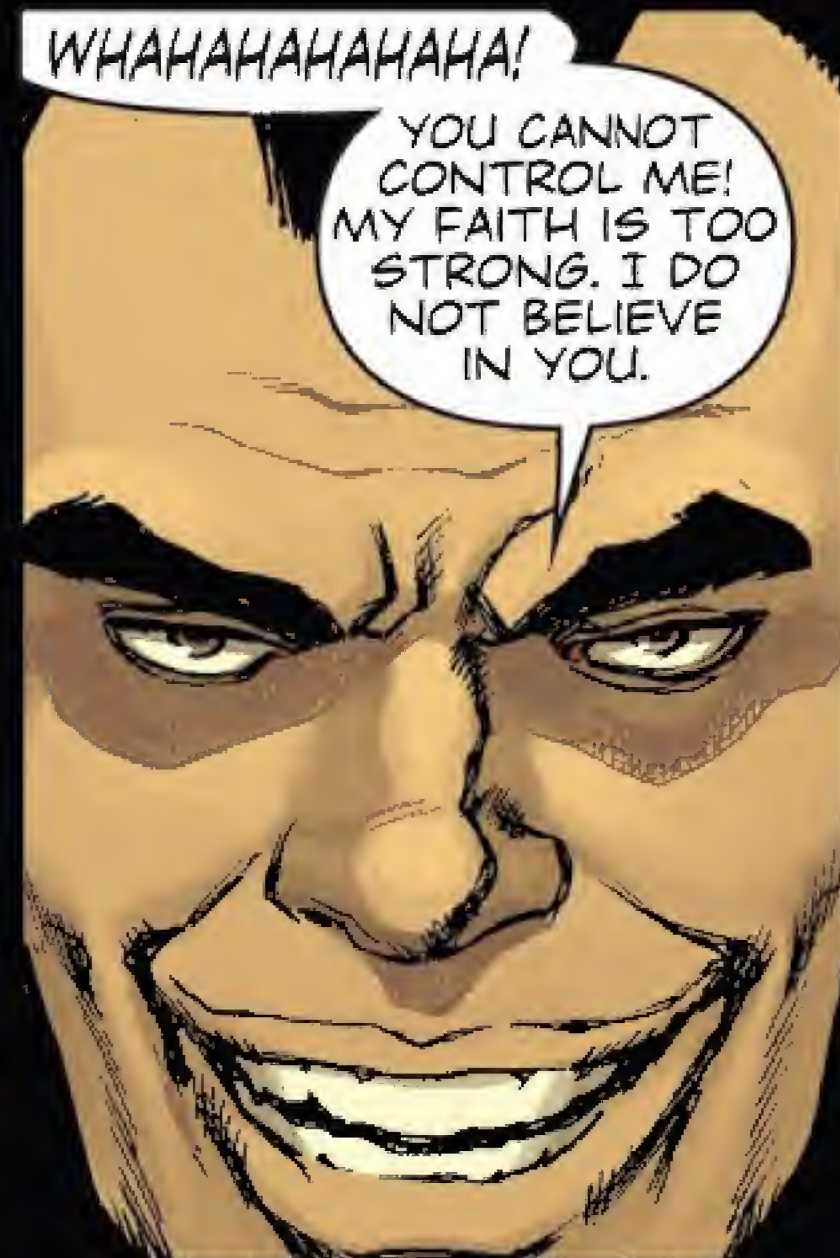




YOU WILL ORDER YOUR MEN TO STAND DOWN. YOU WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH WHEN I ASK YOU QUESTIONS.



I WILL ORDER MY MEN TO STAND DOWN. I WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH WHEN YOU--



WHAHAHAHAHAHA!

YOU CANNOT CONTROL ME! MY FAITH IS TOO STRONG. I DO NOT BELIEVE IN YOU.



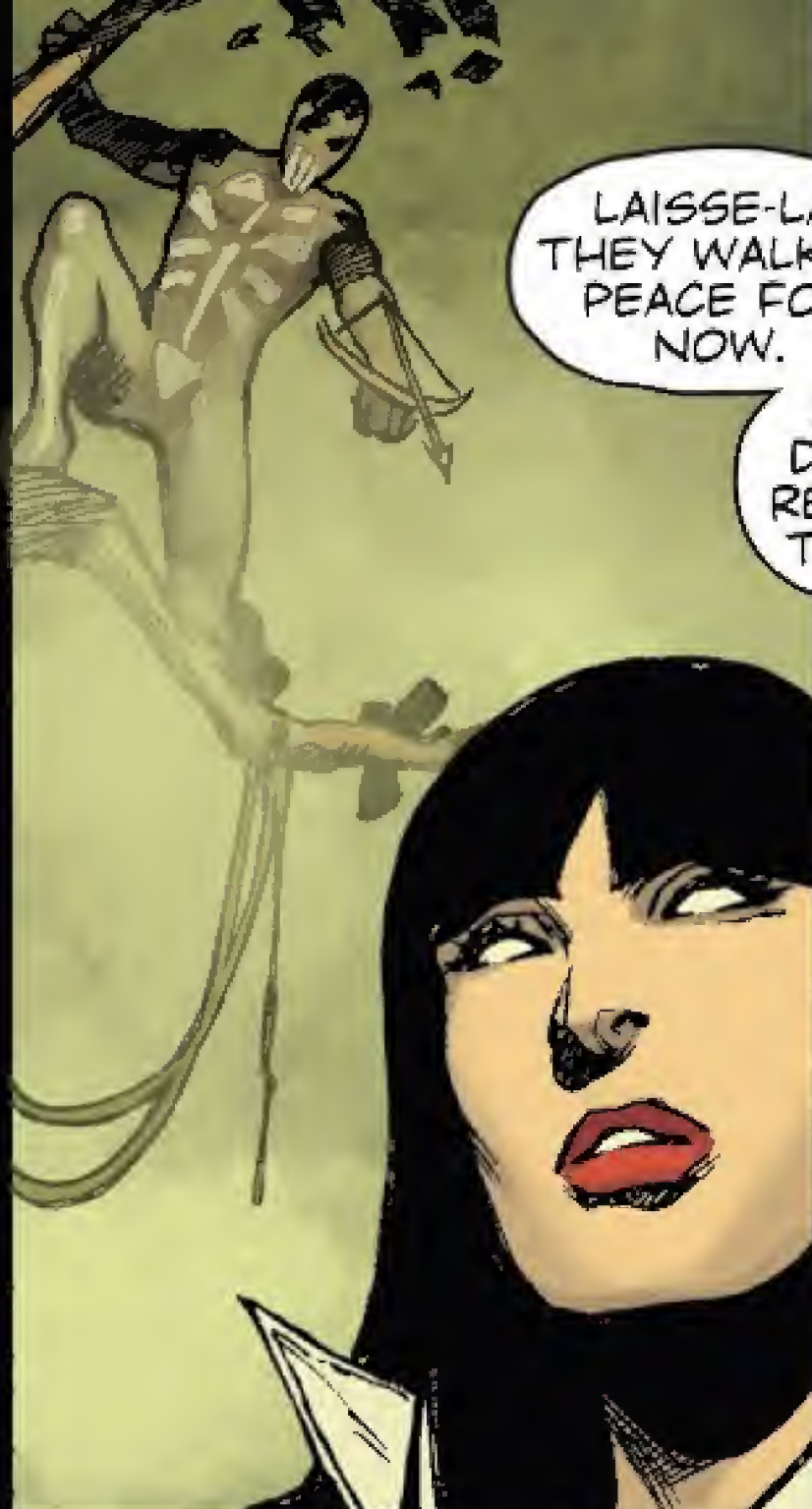
BUT YOU DO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE LOA SIMBI ANDEZO, OUI?

THE SIMBI WILL ONLY GIVE AID TO THOSE WHO ARE SINCERE OF HEART. DO YOU THINK YOURSELF MORE SINCERE THAN I?





SHE MAKES
YOU A FOOL.
NO MORE!



LAISSE-LA.
THEY WALK IN
PEACE FOR
NOW.

DEVENIR
DISPARUS.
RETURN TO
THE MIST.



I'M OFFICIALLY
BACK TO HATING
THIS DAMN
ISLAND.

IT'S NOT THE ISLAND.
THOSE MEN ARE
WEEDS IN A GLORIOUS
GARDEN.

WHATEVER
YOU SAY. SIMONE'S
NOT HOME RIGHT
NOW, IS SHE?



11:00 A.M.

THE MEN YOU FOUGHT, THEY ARE CALLED THE VOUDOU WIND. THE MASKS THEY WEAR, THEIR COSTUMES--

--ARE LIKE THE ONE THAT PAUL WAS WEARING WHEN HE DEFEATED JACQUES VALIER. I RECOGNIZED IT.

THEY MOCK HIS VICTORY BY TAKING HIS DISGUISE AND MAKING IT A THING OF NIGHTMARES.



IT IS SAID THAT PAUL GIRAUD WAS LAST SEEN STANDING BEHIND THAT WATERFALL, MANY MONTHS AGO.



I'LL BUILD US A STAIRCASE--

NO! YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR OWN MAGIC INTO THIS NOW. VOUDON IS THE LAW OF LIFE HERE.



YOU CARRY THAT LAW INSIDE YOURSELF. THE REQUEST FOR PASSAGE MUST FIRST BE SPOKEN BY YOU.



I AM A SEEKER OF TRUTH, AND I ASK THE SPIRITS OF COTE DE SOLEIL TO GRANT ME ENTRY AND SAFE PASSAGE!

I WISH ONLY TO SAVE A HUMAN SOUL. I DO NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO CONFLICT WITH THE LOA GUARDIANS OR THEIR AGENTS.







SIMONE?
ARE YOU WITH
ME?

YES.
THANK YOU
FOR BEING
WITH ME.



WE ARE
ALL UNITED
BENEATH
THE WATCHFUL
GAZE OF THE
GUARDIAN
SPIRITS.



YOU KNOW THE NAME OF JAKA,
BUT YOU WILL NOT SPEAK IT ALOUD.
TO DO SO WOULD BRING ETERNAL
DEATH AND SUFFERING.




YOU WILL
EXPLAIN WHY
YOU HAVE
COME HERE.




WE DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE. WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE...

...WAIT. I
REMEMBER NOW.
I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING!




YOU
REMEMBER
NOTHING THAT
MATTERS.

NO, THAT'S
WHERE YOU'RE
WRONG. PAUL
TOLD ME THE
SECRETS. HE
GAVE ME THE
KEY--




SILENCE
YOURSELF! PAUL
GIRAUD GAVE YOU
A CURSE! YOUR
FATE IS SET!



I'LL
SET YOUR
FATE--

COTE DE SOLEIL
WILL BE FREE AGAIN.
I SWEAR IT, JAKA! IT
WILL BE FREE AS I
AM TRULY FREE--



I AM BEGINNING
TO UNDERSTAND
YOUR POSITION
A BIT MORE
CLEARLY.

COME
WITH ME. YOU
DESERVE TO SEE
WHAT YOU CAME
TO SEE.



I DON'T LIKE THIS. SOMETHING FEELS ABSOLUTELY WRONG.

STAY CALM. THERE IS A PROCESS TO THIS, A RITUAL SYSTEM--



WHUAAAHH!



ADAM?

ADAM?!



WHAT HAPPENED TO ZAZOU?!

HE WAS PULLED UNDER BY SOME KIND OF GIANT SNAKE!

"GIANT SNAKE"...? OH, NO.



WE NEED TO LEAVE.

RIGHT NOW.



STALLING US
ISN'T GOING TO
WORK, JAKA.

THAT
IS WHY I HAVE
NOT BOTHERED
WITH IT.



PAUL GIRAUD
WAS A FIGURE OF
FAITH; A SYMBOL
OF THE POWER
OF BELIEF.



MY ONLY
WISH WAS TO
ELEVATE THAT
POSITION.



HIS WILLINGNESS
TO SACRIFICE
HIMSELF WAS TRULY
HIS GREATEST GIFT TO
THE PEOPLE OF THIS
ISLAND, DON'T YOU
THINK?

TO BE CONTINUED!

DYNAMITE
33

VAMPIRELLA®



FABIANO 13

DYNAMITE
33

VAMPIRELLA®







YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE HINT, YOU STUPID APES!

I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO LET YOU RUN OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR SKIN STILL HANGING FROM YOUR BONES, BUT YOU JUST NEVER LEARN!

SPLOOOSH



IS THAT... MAMBA?!

ONE AND THE SAME. YOU WEREN'T AROUND FOR HER MOST RECENT COMEBACK...*

...BUT AT LEAST YOU MADE IT FOR THE ENCORE.

*SEE THE PANTHA MINI-SERIES--JR.



I'M BACK FOR GOOD THIS TIME. NO MORE IDIOT PARTNERS. NO MORE BEING PUSHED AROUND BY THE LOWER ANIMALS.



ADAM--!

HUNNNNGGGH!



האם
זה לא
הוא



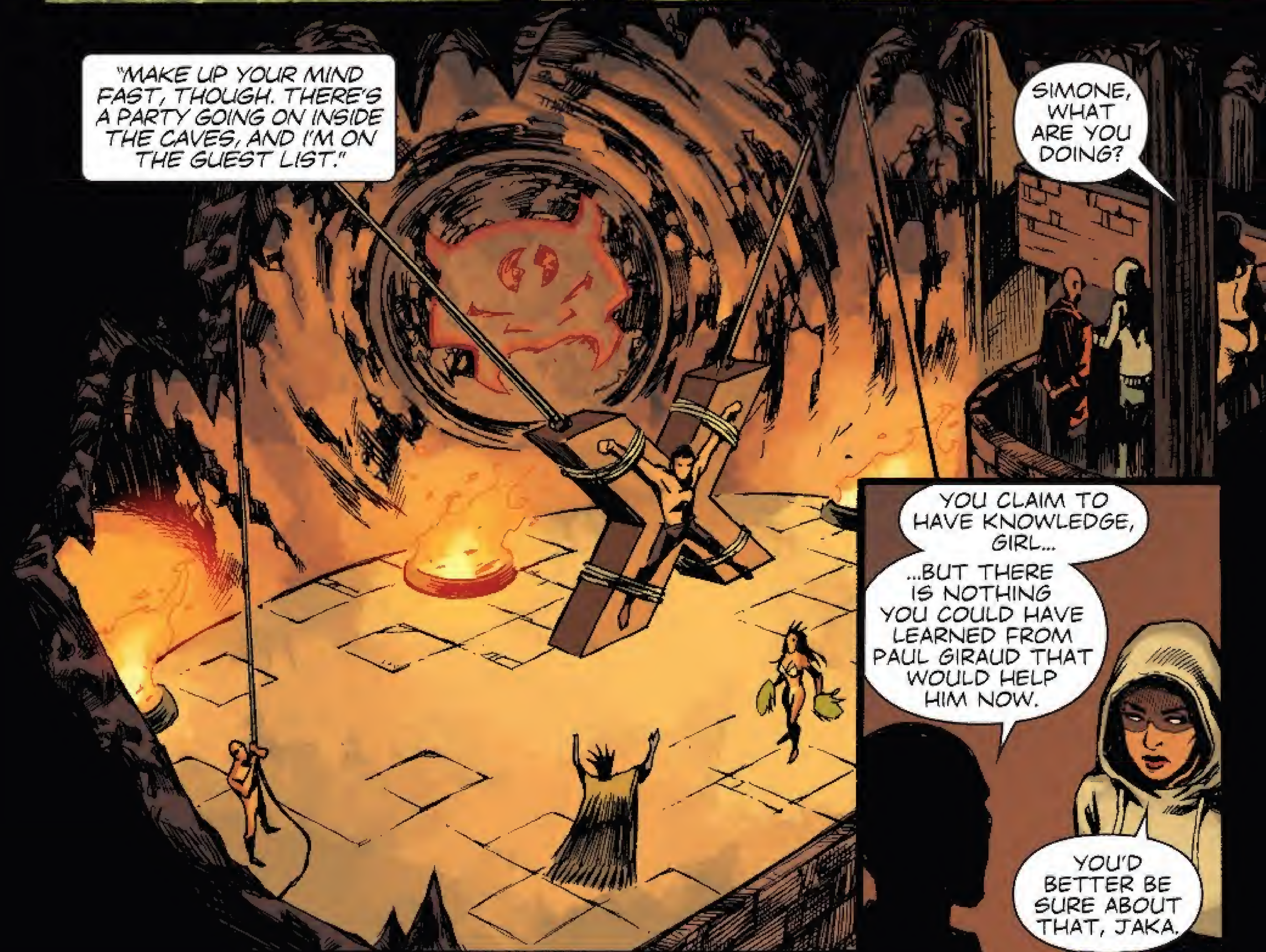
BLAZAP
BLAZAP



YOUR POOR, DEAD FRIEND
TRIED TO TELL YOU
ALREADY: YOUR MAGIC
IS NOT THE RULE
HERE.

I COULD PULL
UP HIS BONES FROM
THE BOTTOM OF THE
LAGOON, IF YOU'D
LIKE TO CONSULT
HIM AGAIN.

"MAKE UP YOUR MIND
FAST, THOUGH. THERE'S
A PARTY GOING ON INSIDE
THE CAVES, AND I'M ON
THE GUEST LIST."



SIMONE,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

YOU CLAIM TO
HAVE KNOWLEDGE,
GIRL...

...BUT THERE
IS NOTHING
YOU COULD HAVE
LEARNED FROM
PAUL GIRAUD THAT
WOULD HELP
HIM NOW.

YOU'D
BETTER BE
SURE ABOUT
THAT, JAKA.

THEY'RE
HERE, SIMONE.
JAKA AND HIS
MEN.

LISTEN
VERY
CAREFULLY,
MY LOVE.

DON'T BE
AFRAID! JUST
GO! IT'S ALL BEEN
TAKEN CARE OF, I
PROMISE YOU!

PAUL
SENT ME AWAY
TO KEEP ME
SAFE...

...BECAUSE
HE KNEW I'D COME
BACK WHEN HE
NEEDED ME MOST.
HE WAS ONE STEP
AHEAD OF YOU,
JAKA.

THIS WAY,
MISS SIMONE.
EVERYTHING
IS ARRANGED,
BUT WE MUST
HURRY!

Zest-Air
SEATTLE-TACOMA
WASHINGTON USA
ZA-100T ZONE
NOW BOARDING



YOU ARE
WRONG!

PAUL GIRAUD
CANNOT PROTECT
HIMSELF! HOW COULD
HE EVER HOPE TO
OFFER SALVATION
TO YOU...

...OR THE OTHER
SHEEP WHO HAVE
FOLLOWED BEHIND
HIM FOR SO LONG?!
LOOK HERE, AND SEE
THE REWARD FOR
YOUR FAITH!

BURUM-TOKTOK

BURUM-TOKTOK

BURUM-TOKTOK BURUM-BURUM-BURUM-TOKTOK





BURUM-TOKTOK BURUM-BURUM-TOKTOK
FWOOOOOSH

FWOOOOOSH

EEYAAAAALUGGH!

AAAGGHHH!

SIMONE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING TO
HER?!



I DO NOTHING.
THAT WAS HER
FAITH AT PLAY.

PICK
HER UP.



GATEKEEPER OF
CHA-KAI-OSSA!

ATUR!
DIABOLIS!
ZHEM KUDAO!

BY THE
POWERS
OF KALHU
TENA!

BY THE
POWERS OF
GIS JYLOA,
TO WHOM
I SAY:

VOUDOU
CHAOSA!



HUUNNNH.
NO. NO.
Noooooo--



SIMONE!
WAKE UP!

PAUL
NEEDS YOU,
SIMONE!



SHRAK



NICE MALLET. DON'T THEY TRUST YOU WITH A PROPER WEAPON?



COME ON, SIMONE. TIME TO WAKE UP!



WHAT--?



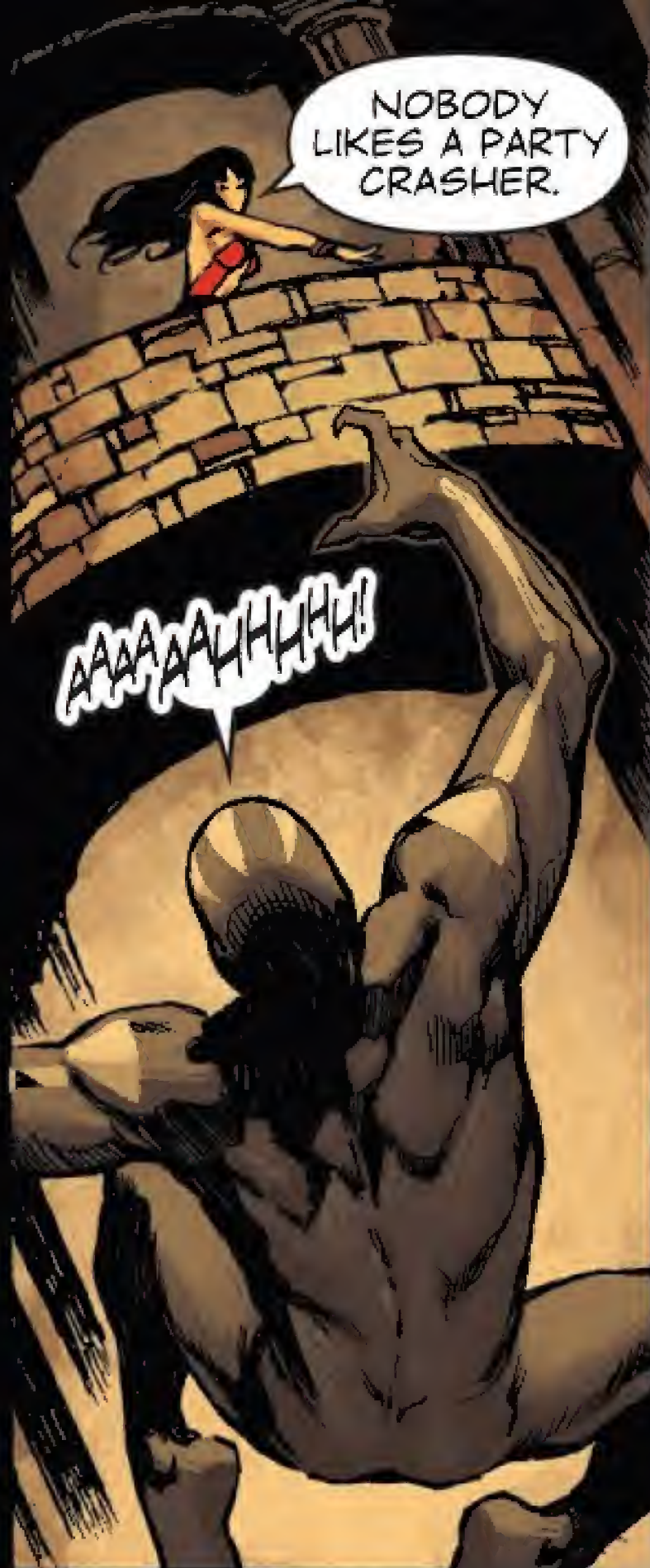
YOU ALWAYS WERE A BACKSTABBING COWARD, JAKA.

I KNEW IT, AND SIMONE KNOWS IT, TOO.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?



I'M SORRY. THIS WILL BE AWKWARD FOR YOU.



NOBODY
LIKES A PARTY
CRASHER.

AAAAAHHHH!!



YOU'RE
ONE TO TALK,
VAMPIRELLA.



OH,
GOOD.

I HATE
IT WHEN DAYS
DON'T GET ANY
WORSE.



I'M FEELING LIKE A SPOILED
LITTLE PRINCESS RIGHT
NOW! SO MANY OF MY
LEAST FAVORITE PEOPLE,
ALL IN ONE PLACE.

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHICH ONE OF
YOU I'M GOING
TO KILL
FIRST.



WAAAAAGH!!

MMAAAAAAKE
IT SSSSTOP...

NO. YOUR
LAST CHANCE,
VAMPIRELLA.

IF YOU EVEN BLINK THE WRONG
WAY, WHITEBREAD BOYFRIEND AND
MAGIC GRANDPA GET SQUEEZED
UNTIL THEIR HEADS
POP OFF.



PAUL, CAN
YOU HEAR ME?
IT'S SIMONE.
I'M HERE! I'M
RIGHT HERE,
PAUL!

LAST
CHANCE,
JAKA--



HHRRRRKK



RELAX AND
ENJOY THE
SHOW.



DON'T
YOU WANT TO
SEE, GIRL?

MMMNNGH!

IF YOU LOVE
HIM, RESPECT HIS
FINAL MOMENTS!
THEY'RE COMING!



THE
GATES ARE
OPEN! VOUDOU
CHAOTIS!
ENTRE!

ENTRE!



ENTER THIS
VESSEL AND
LIVE ONCE
MORE...





EEEE YAAAAA

...PAPA
VÖUDOU!

HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
HA
HA



I...

I AM...

ALIVE.

BRING HIM TO THE EARTH! BRING HIM TO HIS LOYAL SUBJECTS!

SIMONE... THIS IS NOT THE END. IT CAN'T BE.



YES.

YES.

I AM ALIVE.



GLORIOUS.



THE VAMPIRESS. THE GIRL.

BRING THEM HERE. BRING THEM TO ME.



YOU...

THE
WOULD-BE
SERPENT
GODDESS.

PRESENT
YOURSELF.



I AM
MAMBA,
AND I AM
YOURS.



YOU HAVE
GUARDED OVER THIS
PLACE? PROTECTED
THE RITUALS OF MY
RESURRECTION?

YES,
FOR MONTHS
NOW, PAPA. I
HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU.

AND YOU
WOULD BE MY
WEAPON?



OH, I'LL
BE WHATEVER
YOU WANT
ME TO BE.

PUT THOSE
BASTARDS
DOWN BEFORE
ME.



GUARDS.
THE CHAINS.

DO YOU
REMEMBER ME,
BASTARDS?

DO YOU
REMEMBER PAPA
VOUDOU?



PAPA
VOUDOU
REMEMBERS
YOU VERY
WELL.

I REMEMBER
HELPING PAUL
GIRAUD KILL YOU.
I'M SURE I'LL
REMEMBER YOUR
NEXT DEATH,
TOO.



HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY TO HIM!

PAPA, IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO KILL THIS--

YOU DO NOT SPEAK FOR ME.

I DO NOT NEED YOU TO KILL MY ENEMIES FOR ME. MAYBE YOU THINK I HAVE NO POWER OF MY OWN...



ZRRRRRRRK

...BUT I DO.



SHRRZZZAAAAAK

I HAVE POWER!


EY YAAAH!



I'M...I'M VERY SORRY, PAPA.

WE'LL SEE.


LOOK AT THESE WOMEN...SUCH BEAUTIFUL BETRAYERS.



THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND LOYALTY, JAKA. NOT LIKE YOU DO, MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANT.


YOU ARE THE SUN TO ME, PAPA. YOU ARE THE BREATH OF LIFE.

ALL THINGS IN THEIR TIME. JUST AS I TOLD YOU LONG AGO. AS I PROMISED.




NO CHAINS ON THIS ONE. NOT YET.

I HAVE WATCHED YOU THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF MY INVISIBLE PRISON, SIMONE.

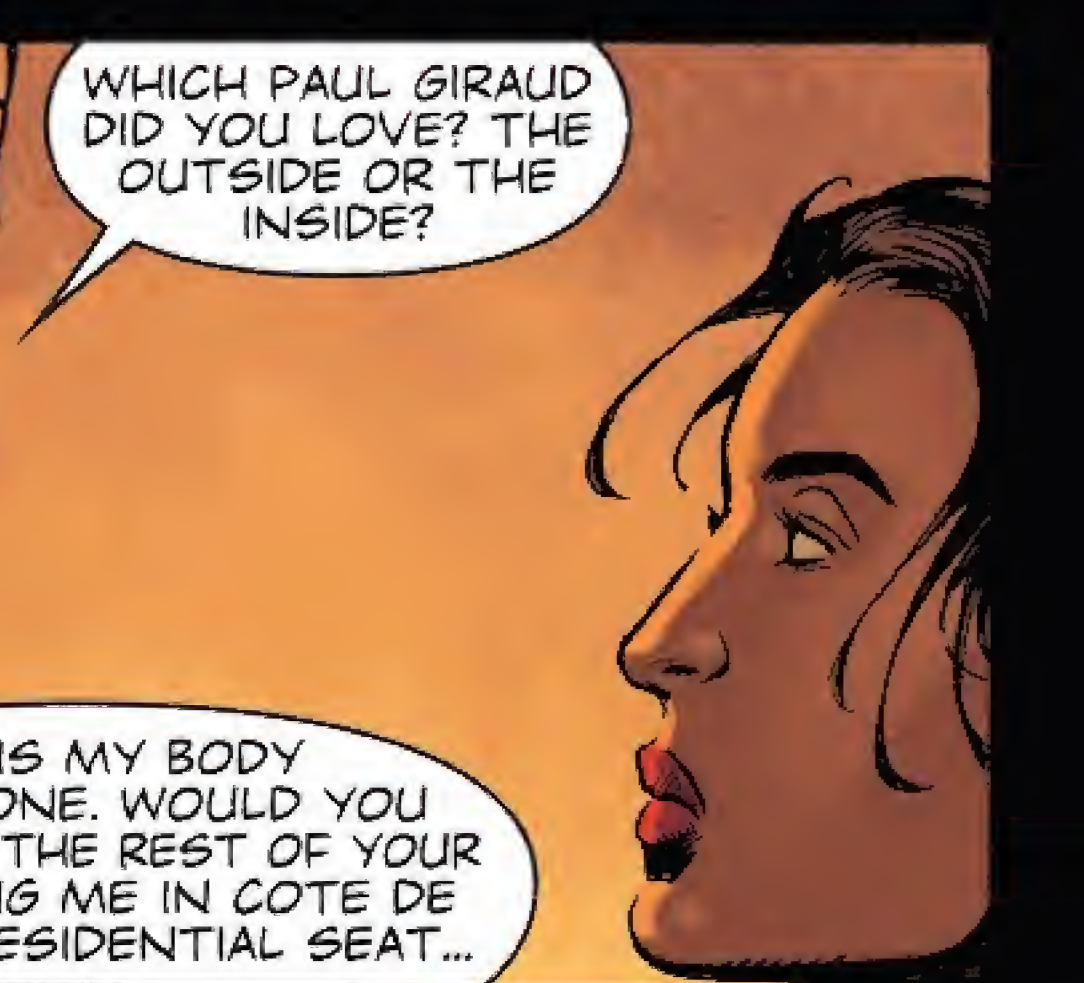


YOU ARE NOT FOOLED BY THIS BODY. NO, NOT YOU, SIMONE.


STILL, I WONDER: DOES YOUR HEART SHAKE LOOSE TO SEE THIS FACE? DO YOU BURN WITH CONFUSED FIRE?



WHICH PAUL GIRAUD DID YOU LOVE? THE OUTSIDE OR THE INSIDE?



THIS IS MY BODY NOW, SIMONE. WOULD YOU RATHER LIVE THE REST OF YOUR DAYS SEEING ME IN COTE DE SOLEIL'S PRESIDENTIAL SEAT...



...OR RIGHT NEXT TO YOU IN YOUR BED?

IF I TOLD YOU THE SECOND CHOICE COULD SPARE THE FIRST, WOULD YOU LIVE UP TO GIRAUD'S OWN EXAMPLE? WOULD YOU MAKE THE SACRIFICE FOR THE PEOPLE?



TELL ME
WHAT HE SAID,
GIRL.



TELL ME THE
FINAL SECRET
THAT PAUL GIRAUD
SHARED WITH HIS
TENDER LITTLE
MISS SIMONE.



THAT'S
ENOUGH. I'LL
TELL YOU.

I'LL TELL
YOU EXACTLY
WHAT HE
SAID.



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හරි
හිමි



WHUUUH...

පිටපත් කිරීම 45000



PAPA!
HELP HIM...
HELLLLLLL
HIIMMM!

KRZNNKKAKA



කර්න

KRAKAZRAKA

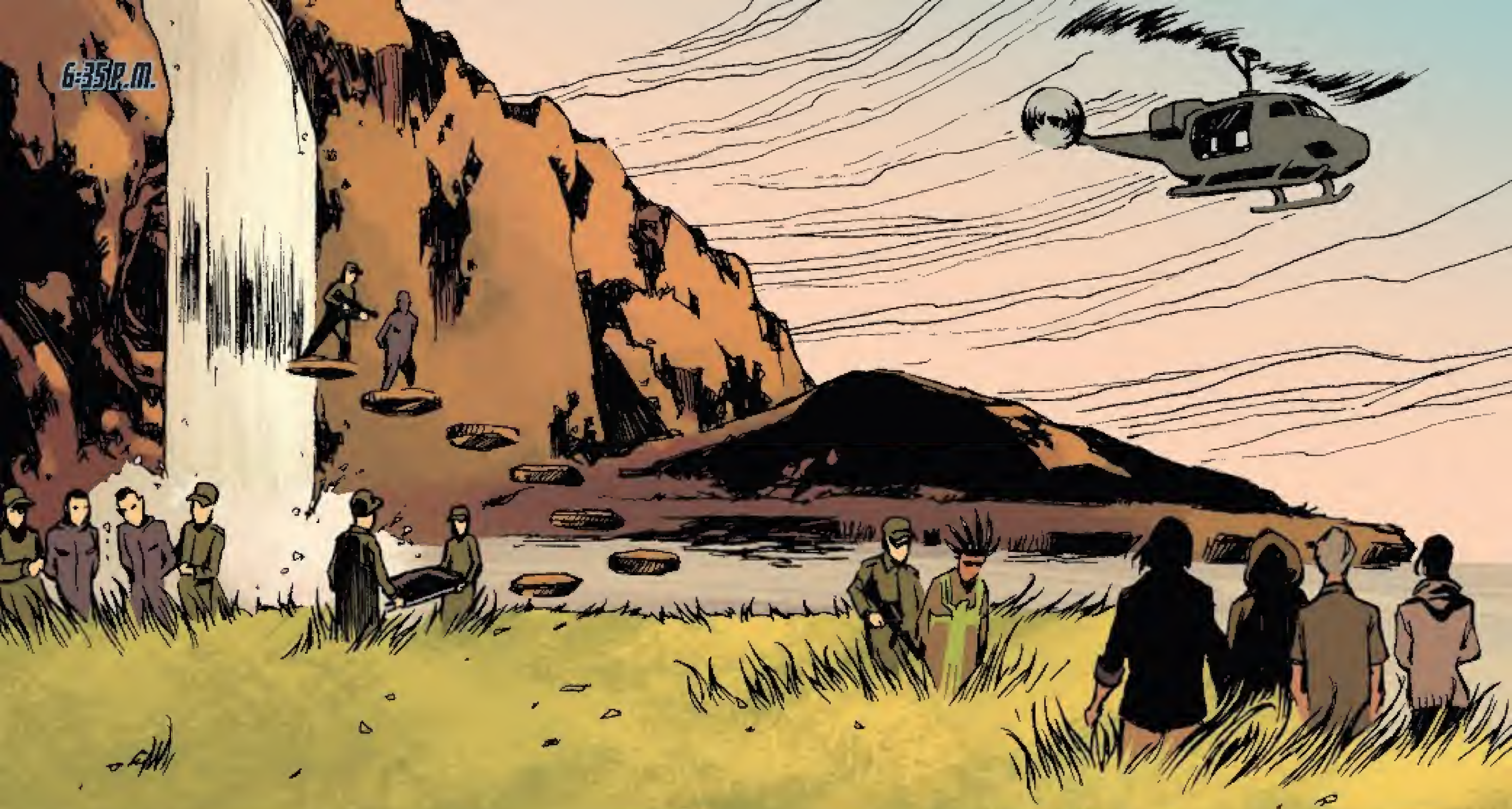
KAKAKA
KAKAKA
KAKAKA
KAKAKA



PAUL!

WHUUUH!





VAMPIRELLA

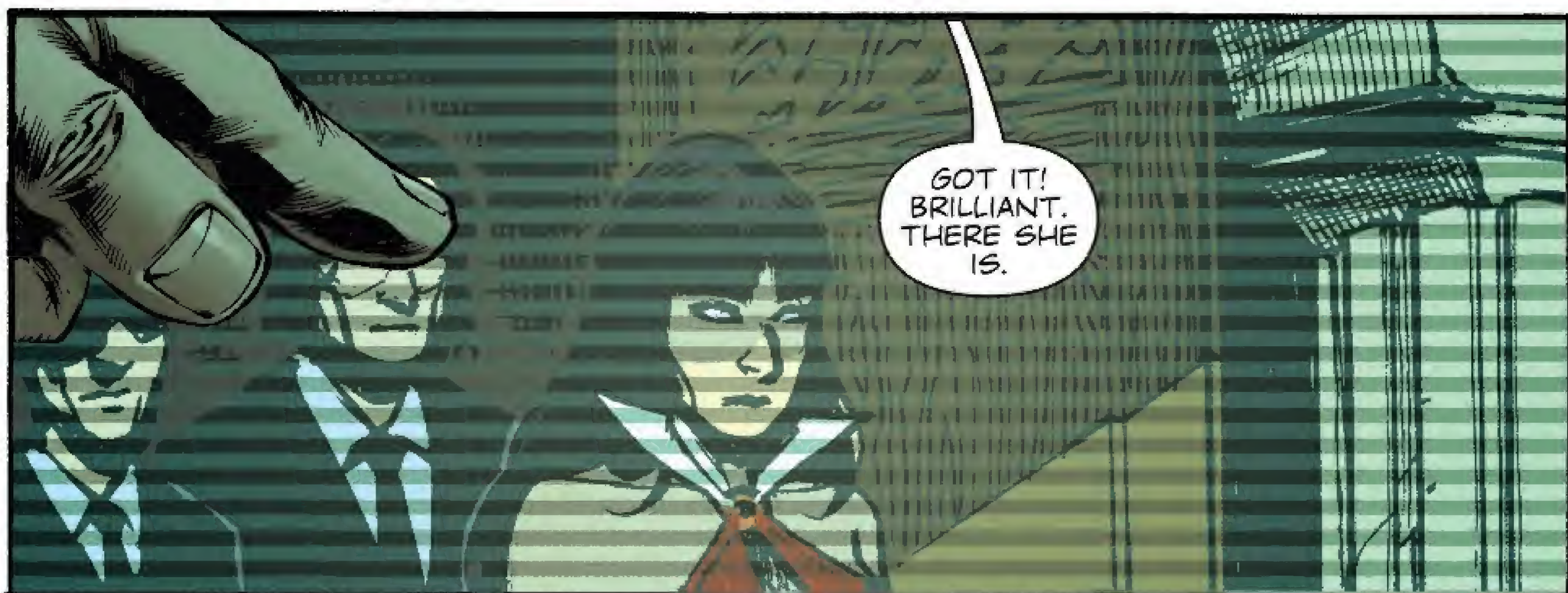
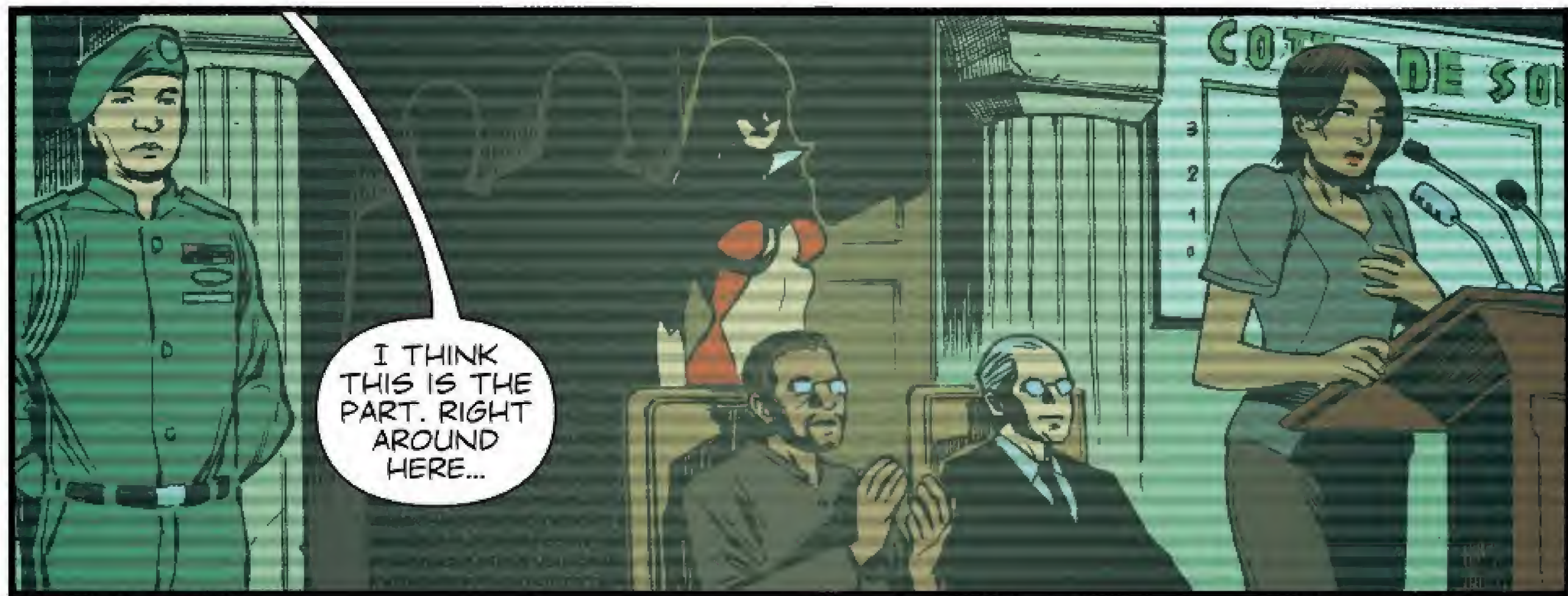


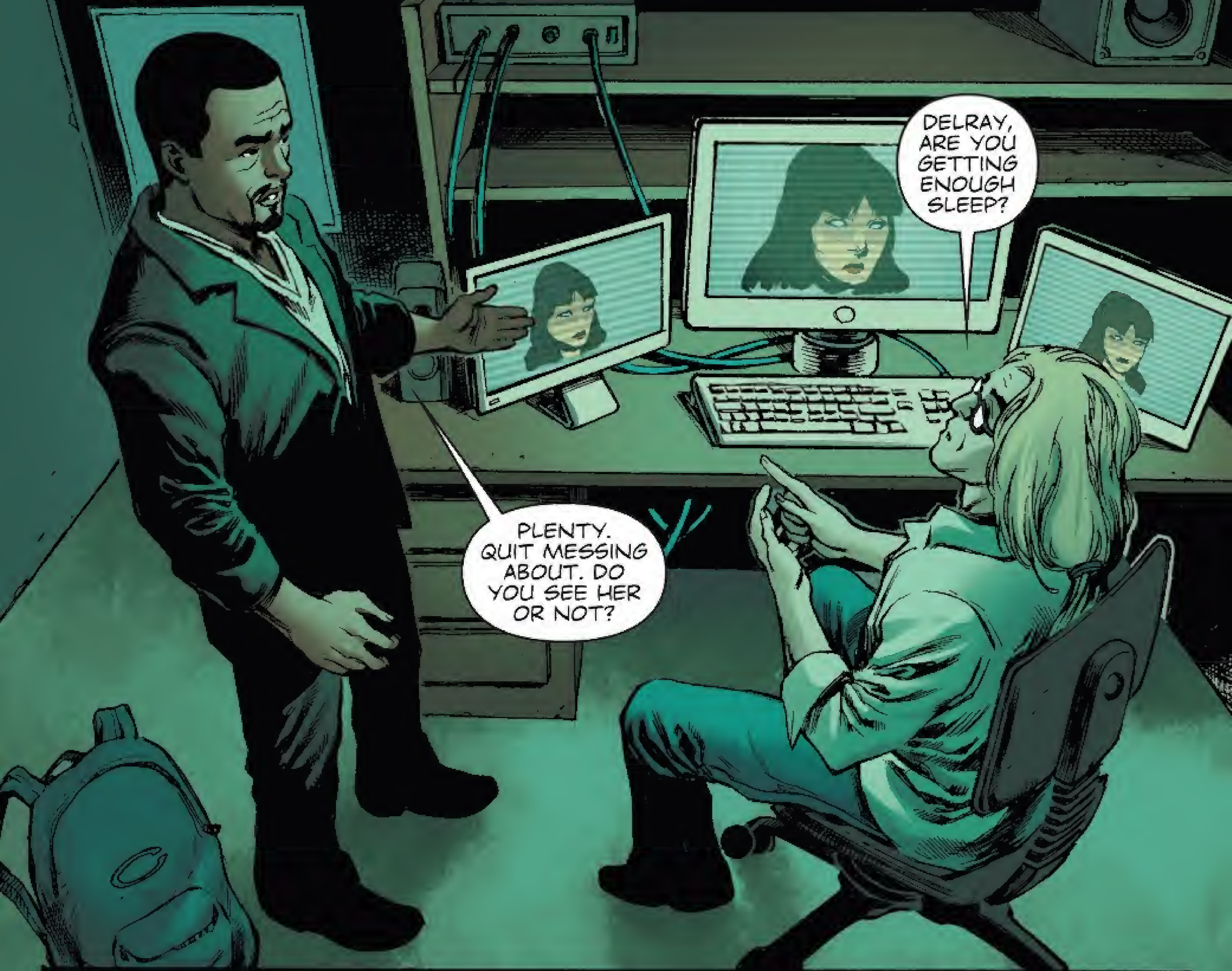
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VAMPIRELLA®







DELRAY,
ARE YOU
GETTING
ENOUGH
SLEEP?

PLENTY.
QUIT MESSING
ABOUT. DO
YOU SEE HER
OR NOT?

VAM.
PI. RELLA.

SHE'S
RIGHT
THERE!



AH, NOW
YOU'RE JUST
TAKING THE
PISS--!



I'M NOT JOKING. IT'S NOT A JOKE!

DELRAY, PLEASE...

I GIVE UP. I'M OUT.

CLEARLY I HAVE LOST MY BLOODY MIND. YOU WERE GOOD TO TELL ME.



SORRY TO WASTE YOUR TIME. SEND THIS OVER TO CLARA WHEN YOU'RE DONE. THANKS MUCH.



DELRAY! WAIT A SECOND.



MORNING, CLARA. I'M JUST ON MY WAY OUT.

OH? SOMETHING GOOD?

NEW LEAD ON AN OLD STORY. CAN YOU SPARE A BIT OF ROPE? LET ME DANGLE WHILE I CHECK IT OUT?



IS THIS 'OLD STORY' WHAT I'M THINKING?

YES. THE MYSTERY WOMAN.

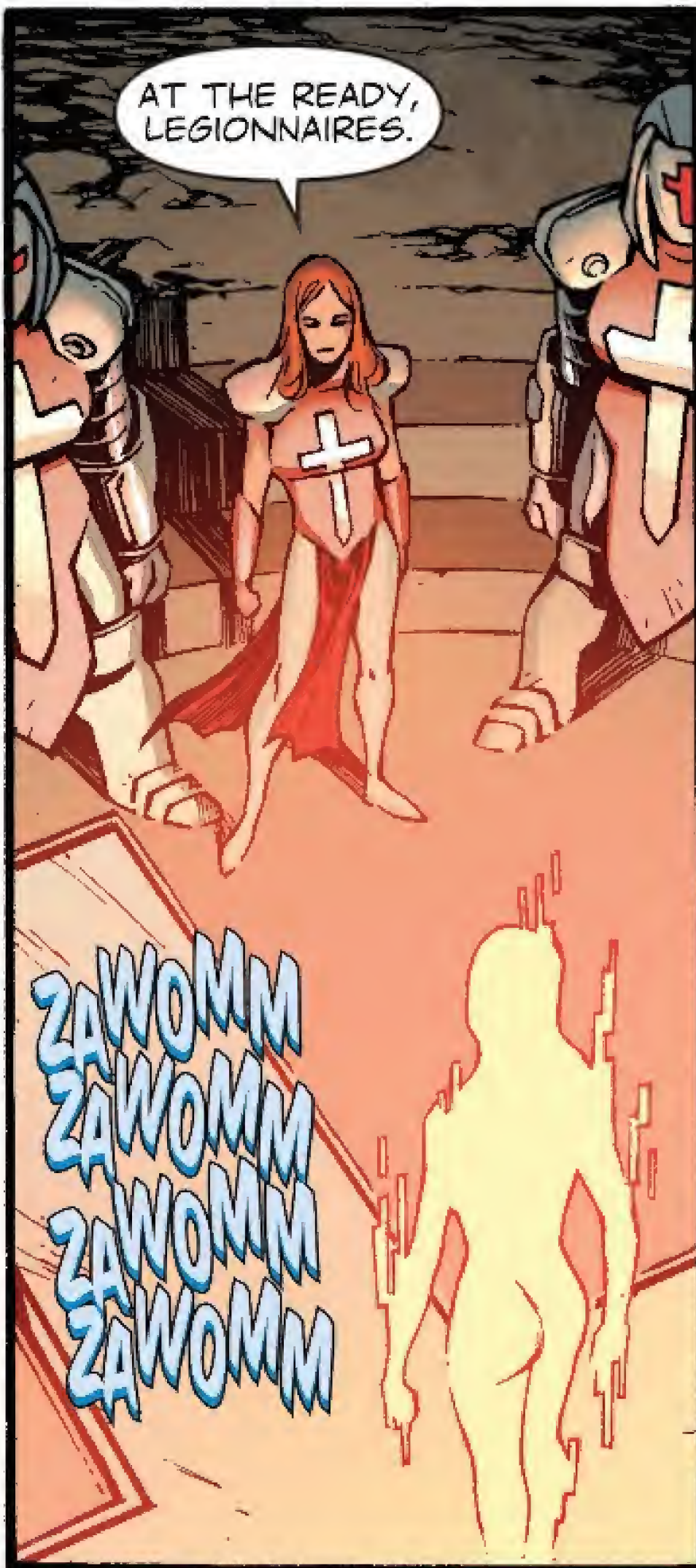


I'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON. PROMISE.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
COLORADO, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



AT THE READY,
LEGIONNAIRES.



WE BID YOU
WELCOME...

...VAMPIRELLA.

ZAAAA-WOMMMM

LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE
COMING TOGETHER QUICKLY,
SISTER BRITTANY.

WE'RE AHEAD
OF SCHEDULE.
IF YOU NEED TO
ACCELERATE THE
TIMETABLE, WE'LL
BE READY.

GOOD
TO KNOW, BUT
I'M TERRIFIED OF
GETTING AHEAD OF
MYSELF HERE.

IT'S A NOBLE THING
YOU'RE DOING. EVERYONE
HERE BELIEVES IN YOUR
VISION.

I APPRECIATE
THAT. LET'S JUST
HOPE I'M NOT
COMPLETELY
DELUDED.



**VAMPIRELLA IN:
"SHE SELLS SANCTUARY" PART 1 OF 2**

writer: Brandon Jerwa artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes letterer: Marshall Dillon editor: Joe Rybandt
VAMPIRELLA created by FORREST J ACKERMAN & TRINA ROBBINS



NOT MY
INTENTION,
MAMBA.

ARE YOU
COMFORTABLE?

GO #@*&
YOURSELF.

THE NIMBUS TOWER
ELSEWHERE





HAHAHAHA!

SO, YOU WANTED A MEETING. WHAT'S UP?



RECENT...EVENTS... HAVE SET VAMPIRELLA ON A NEW PATH. SHE'S DECIDED TO CREATE A SORT OF REFUGE FOR SCARY MONSTERS AND SUPER CREEPS.

I LOVE BOWIE. TEN POINTS. GO ON.

I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU IN PERSON. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A MAJOR UNDERTAKING...



...AND SHE'S DOING IT BECAUSE SHE SAW THE FUTURE.

SPECIFICALLY, A FUTURE WHERE I'D BEEN CORRUPTED BY MY FAITH, AND SHE WORE THE SILVER HELM OF ORDER.



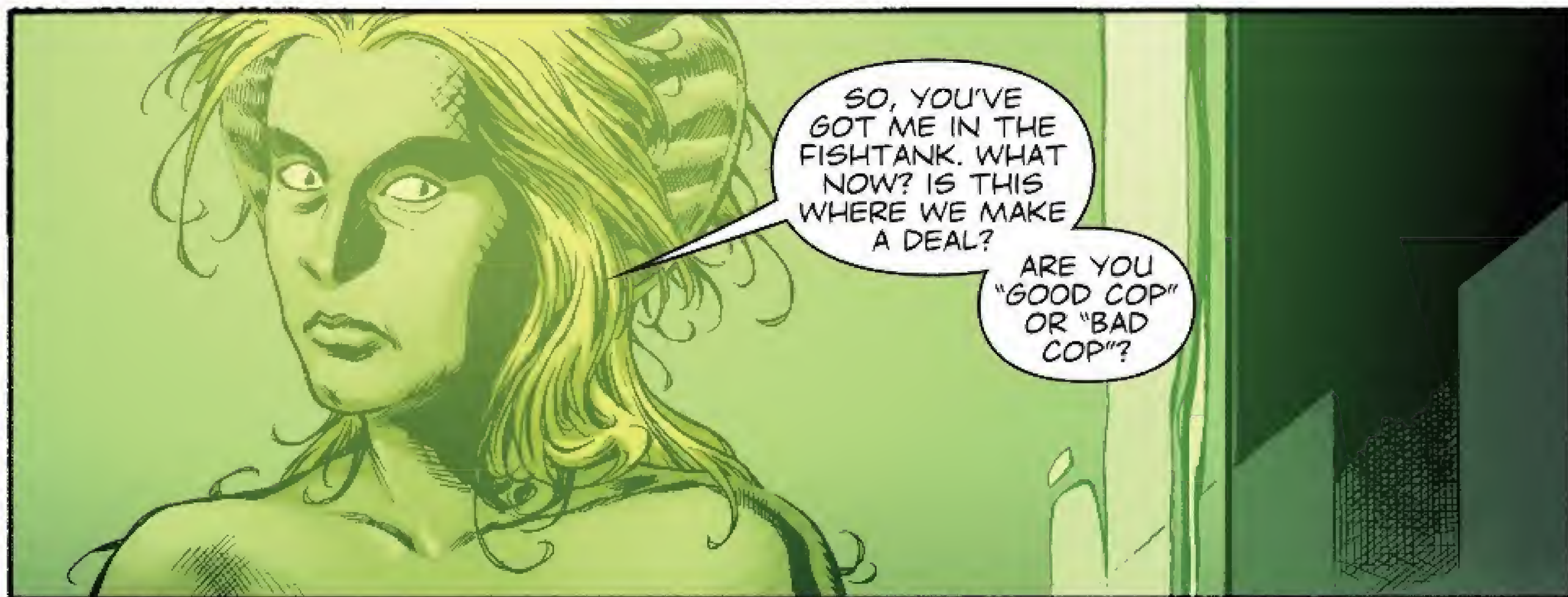
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING. WHERE ARE YOU AT WITH ALL OF THIS?

HONESTLY? I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING. I DON'T WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURES. I LIKE TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT.

GOOD PLAN. YOU KNOW I TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT, ADAM...



...BUT ARE YOU WILLING TO GO AGAINST THE WOMAN YOU LOVE IF YOU'RE WRONG?



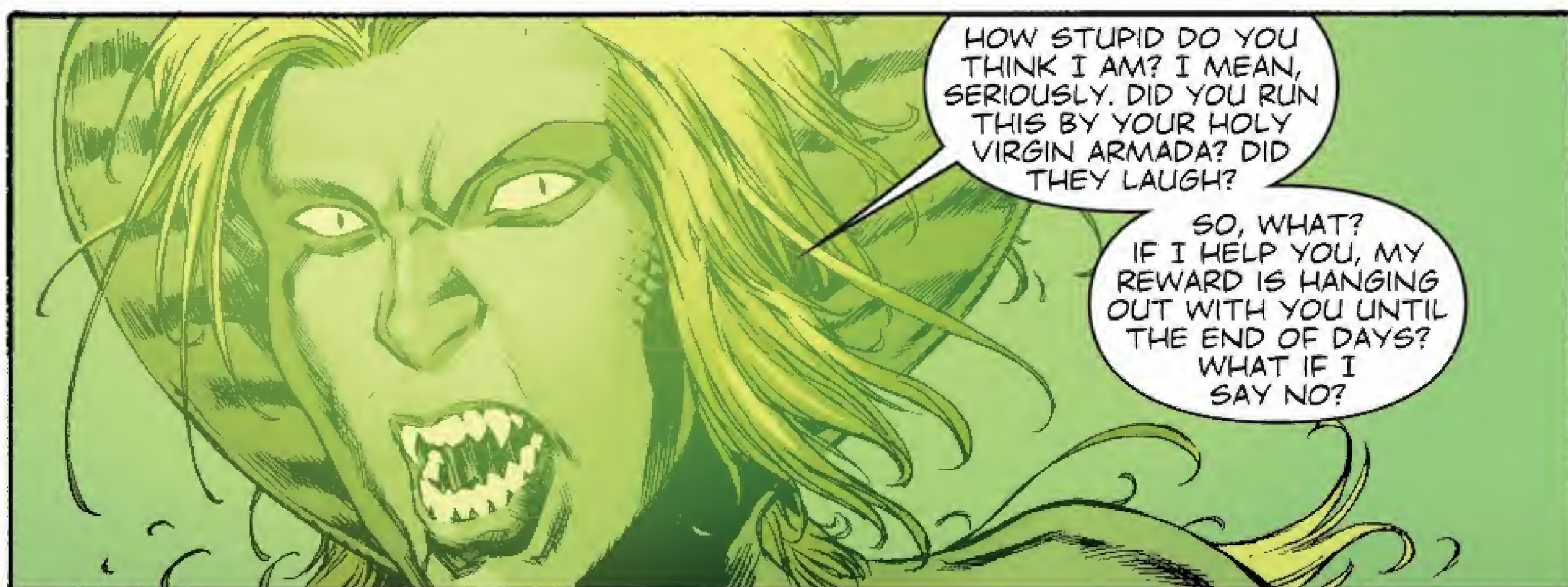
SO, YOU'VE GOT ME IN THE FISHTANK. WHAT NOW? IS THIS WHERE WE MAKE A DEAL?

ARE YOU "GOOD COP" OR "BAD COP"?



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FIGHTING WITH YOU, OR ANYONE ELSE. I'VE GOT BIGGER PLANS IN MIND. YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE SHADOWS. I NEED THAT KNOWLEDGE.

WE'RE ALL WEIRD. WE'RE ALL SCARY. SO WHY ARE WE KILLING EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF COMING TOGETHER? WHY CAN'T THAT UNITY START WITH US, RIGHT HERE AND NOW?



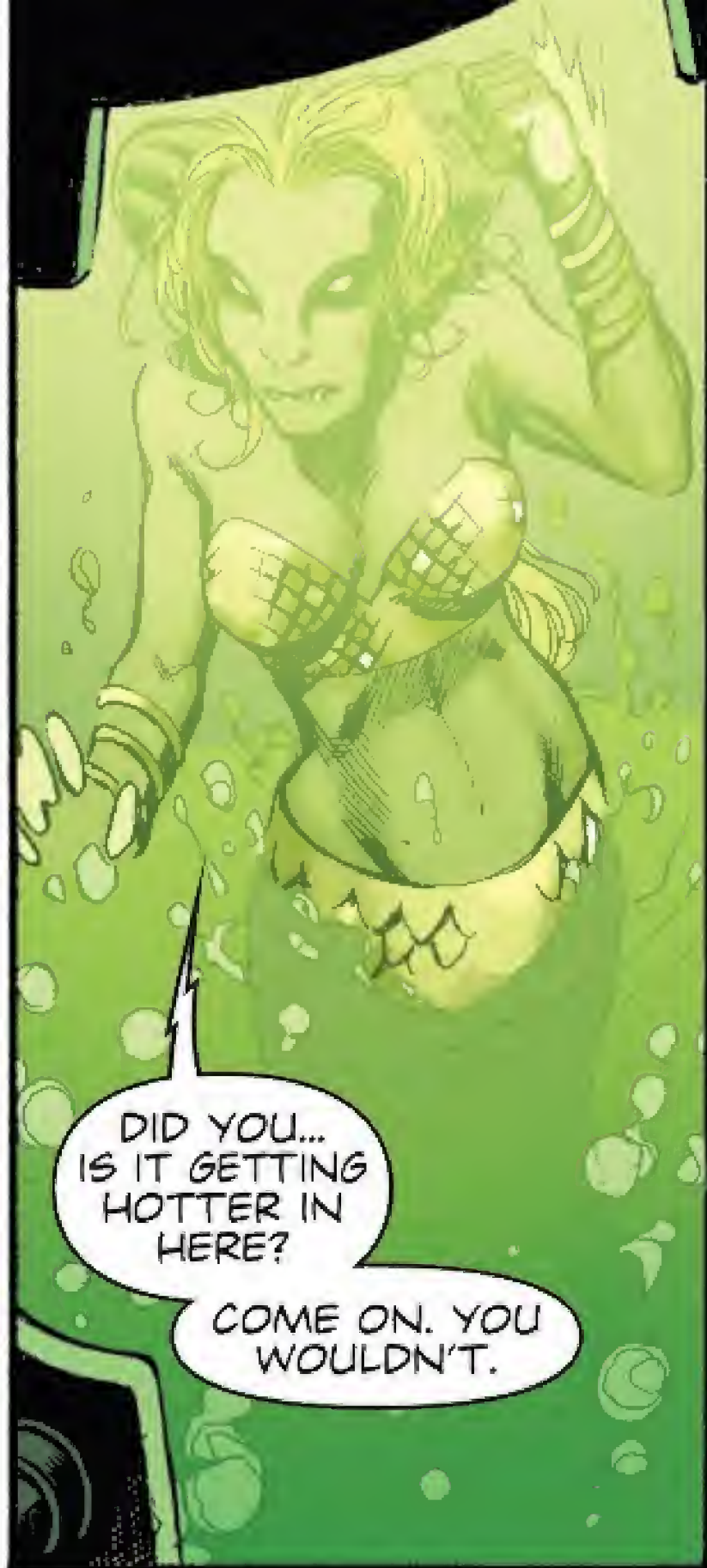
HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK I AM? I MEAN, SERIOUSLY. DID YOU RUN THIS BY YOUR HOLY VIRGIN ARMADA? DID THEY LAUGH?

SO, WHAT? IF I HELP YOU, MY REWARD IS HANGING OUT WITH YOU UNTIL THE END OF DAYS? WHAT IF I SAY NO?



I TOLD YOU I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FIGHTING...

...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T.



DID YOU...
IS IT GETTING
HOTTER IN
HERE?

COME ON. YOU
WOULDN'T.



I KNEW
THIS WOULDN'T
WORK. *~SIGH~*

I TRIED,
I REALLY
DID.



COME
ON! YOU CAN'T
DO THIS,
VAMPIRELLA!

I'M RUNNING OUT OF
AIR. IT'S SO GODDAMNED
HOT IN HERE. TURN IT
OFF! YOU CAN'T--



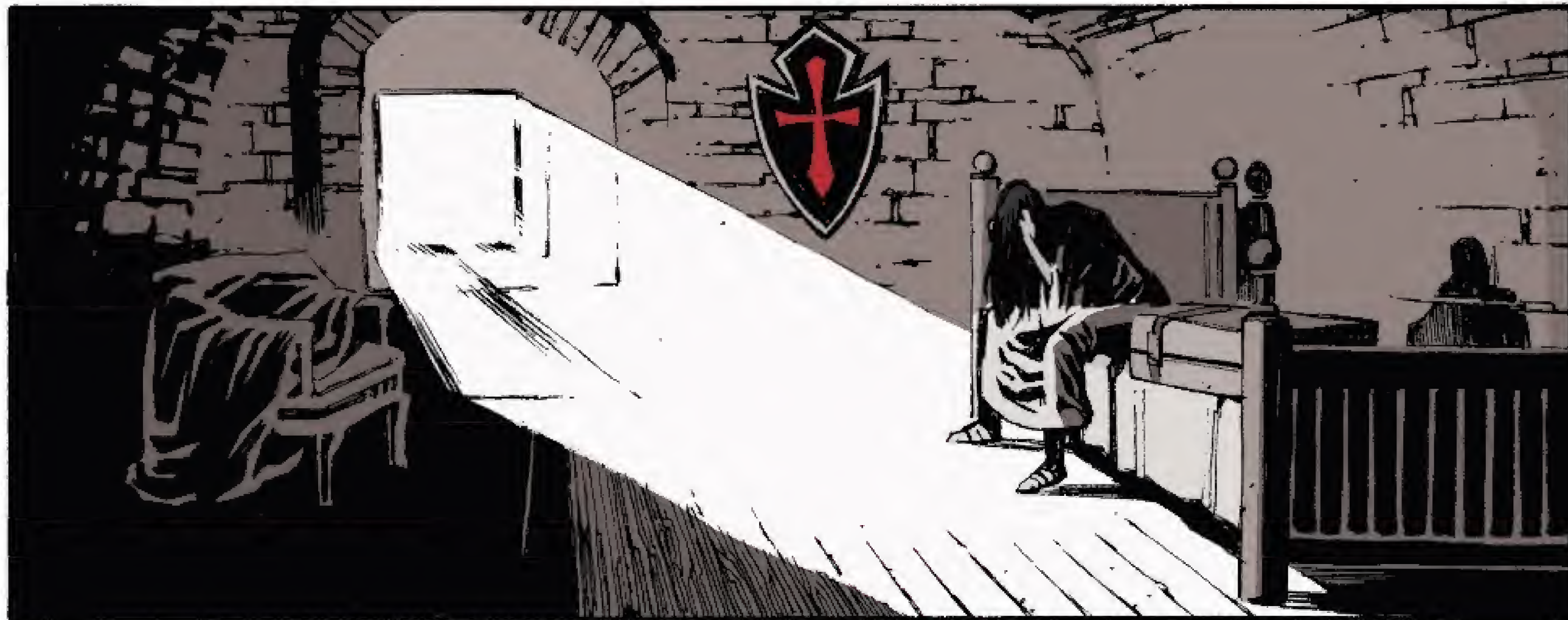
OH, GOD!
OKAY! I'LL
HELP YOU!

I'M
SORRY! I'LL
DO ANYTHING.
ANYTHING!
PLEASE!

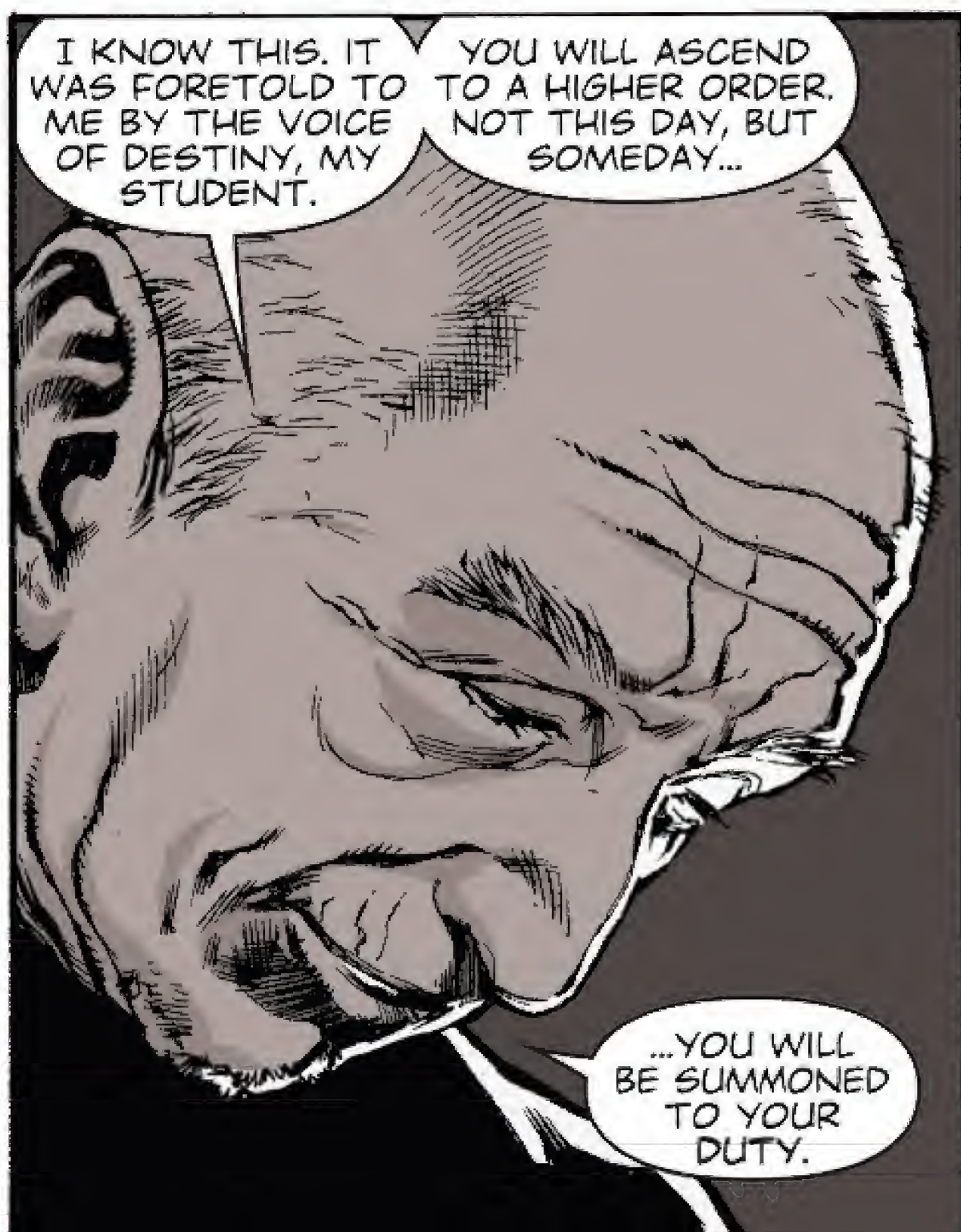


ANYTHING?

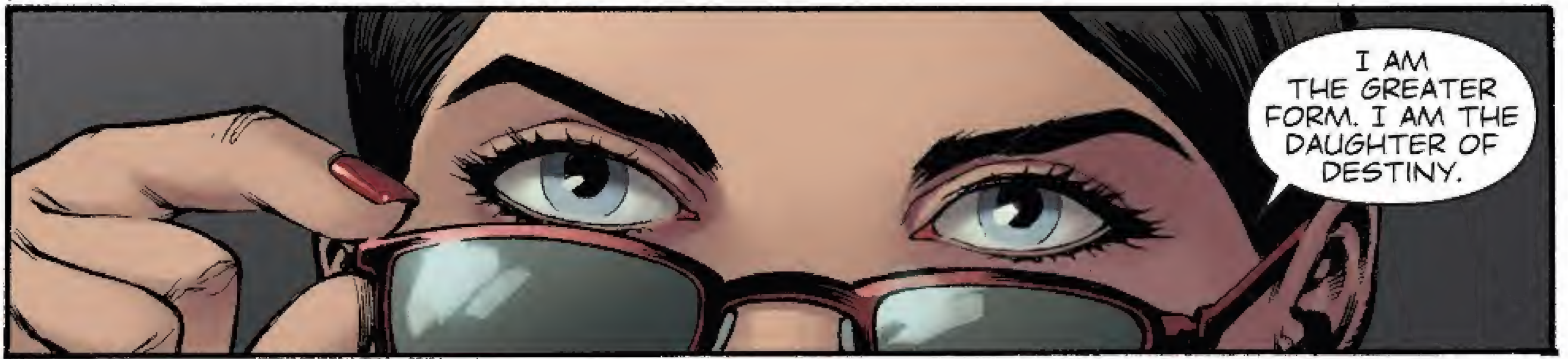












I AM
THE GREATER
FORM. I AM THE
DAUGHTER OF
DESTINY.



DID YOU SAY SOMETHING,
MA'AM?

TO
MYSELF.
ARE THEY
HERE?



REYES-FIRZA TOWER
NEW YORK CITY
PRESENT DAY

WAITING IN
THE
PENTHOUSE,
MA'AM.



THE HOUR OF OUR NOBLE
DUTY IS NEARLY UPON
US, MY SISTERS AND
BROTHERS.




WE WILL SEE VAMPIRELLA
PUNISHED FOR HER
ARROGANT BETRAYAL
OF THE VAMPIRE
RACE...

...AND AS SHE FALLS,
THE DRAGON'S TEMPLAR
WILL RISE TO LEAD
THE NEW AGE OF
BLOOD.

SAN ZHI RESORT, TAIWAN
THREE DAYS LATER









I HAVE A HISTORY WITH SOME OF YOU, AND A REPUTATION TO ALL OF YOU.

NONE OF THAT MATTERS ANYMORE. WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY THE FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO HATE EACH OTHER!

I HAVE WALKED AMONG THE HUMANS, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE-- THE SO-CALLED MONSTERS-- ARE DIFFERENT ONLY IN FORM. IN FUNCTION, OUR WORLDS ARE QUITE SIMILAR.



IF WE CAN UNITE AS A SOCIETY OF OUR OWN, WE WILL MAKE GREAT STRIDES IN THE EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER EVERY LIVING BEING ON THIS WORLD...AND THE COUNTLESS OTHERS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF TIME AND SPACE.



MY FRIENDS AND I ARE BUILDING A REFUGE--A SAFE HAVEN--FOR ANY AND ALL OF YOU WHO WISH TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US NOW, PLEASE STEP FORWARD.


FZAP

HERE WE GO...

NO. WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.



WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE YOU IN PEACE NOW. IS ANYONE COMING WITH US?



I'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU.

COLORADO
THE NEXT EVENING

ALMOST
THREE DOZEN,
CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?

IT'S
A GOOD
START. CONGRATULATIONS.



WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND?

I JUST
WANT YOU TO
BE SURE.

ABSOLUTELY
SURE.



VAMPIRELLA,
PLEASE REPORT TO
THE LIBRARY...



"...THERE'S
SOMEONE
ASKING TO
SEE YOU."

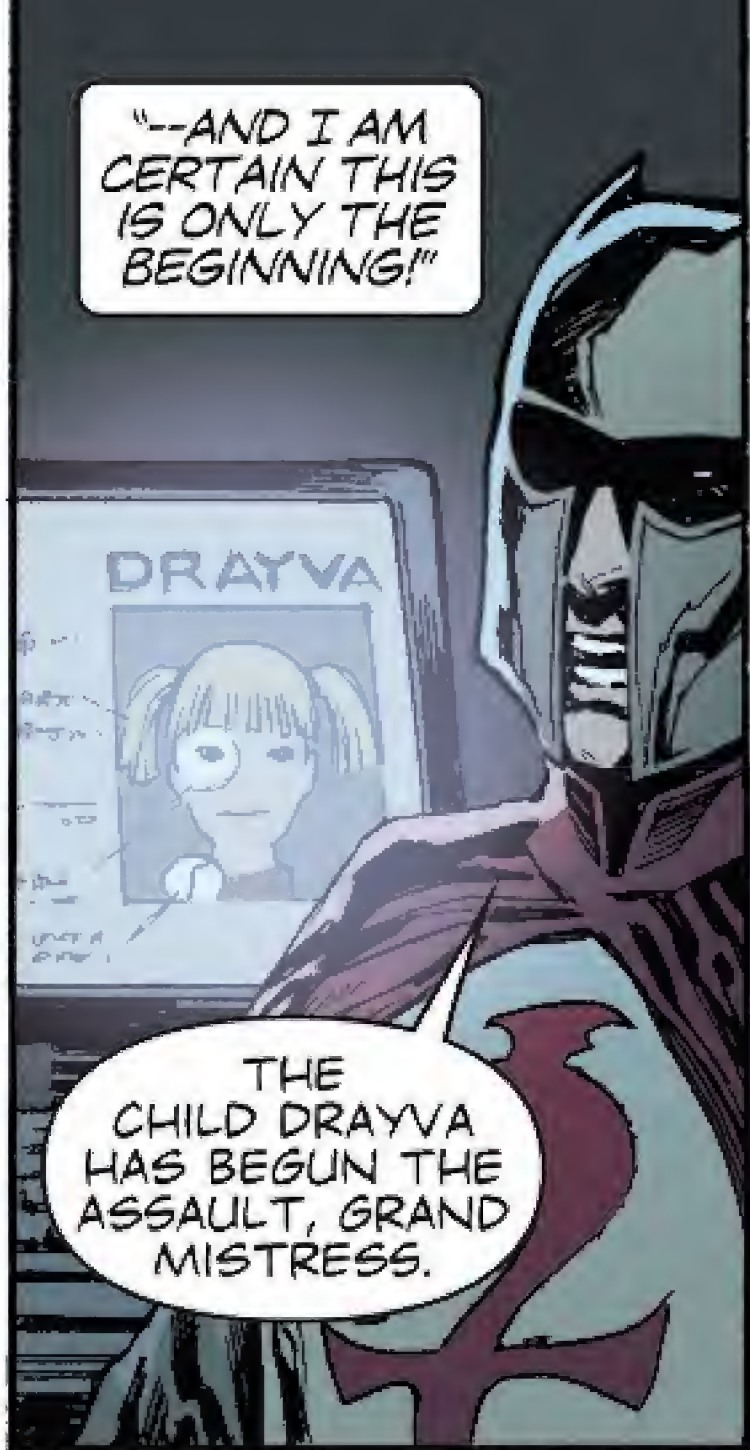




HHYUURROO--
AAAARRRGH!!

LEGIONNAIRES!
WE ARE UNDER
ATTACK--





"--AND I AM CERTAIN THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!"

THE CHILD DRAYVA HAS BEGUN THE ASSAULT, GRAND MISTRESS.



KNIGHTS OF THE DRAGON'S TEMPLAR! TODAY, YOU BECOME THE HIGHER FORM!

YOU ARE FAVORED ETERNALLY BY THE ORDER! HONOR THIS FAVOR WITH VICTORY!

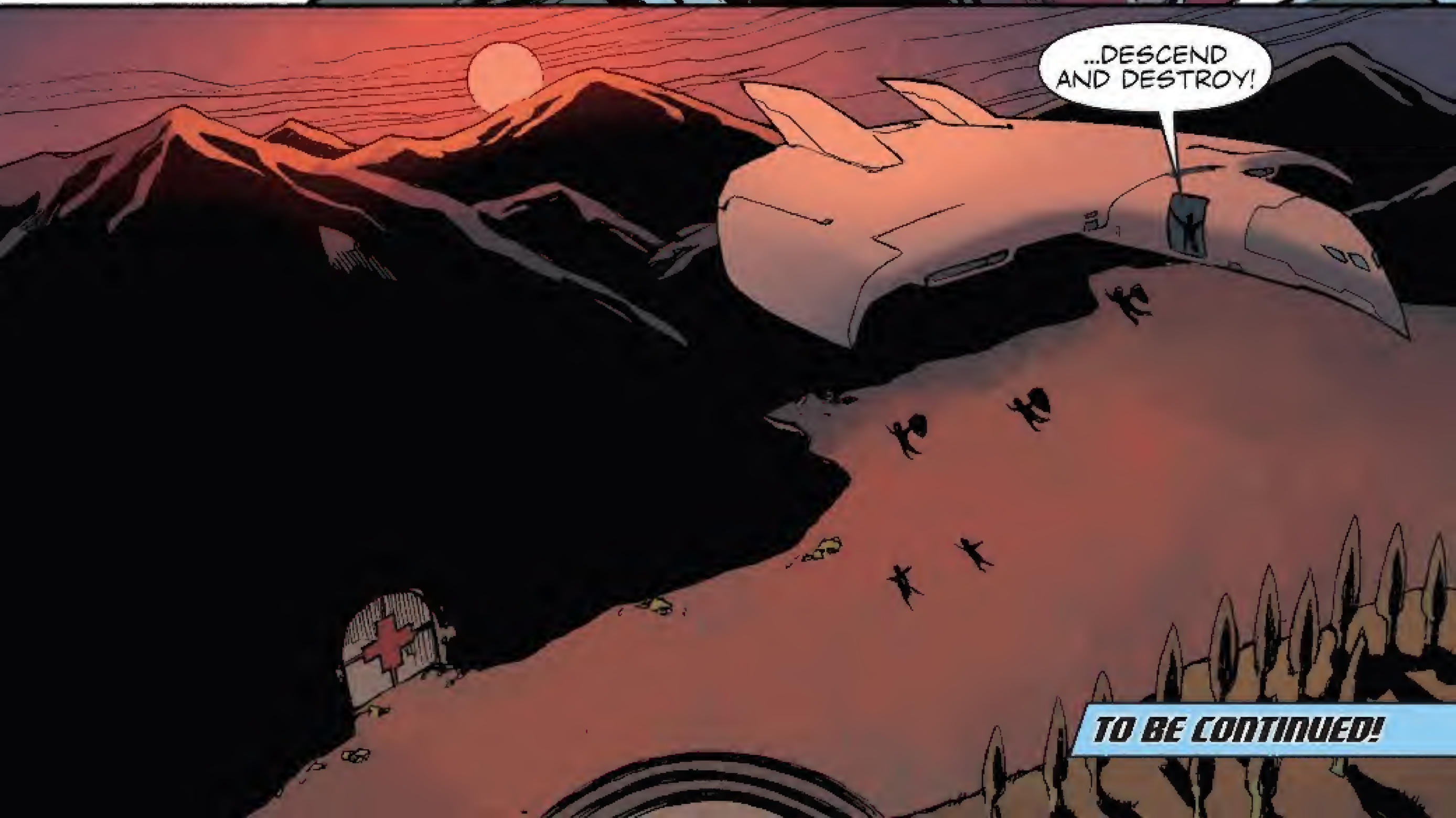
HONOR FOR THE ORDER!



HONOR FOR SISTER MIDNIGHT!



NOW, MY KNIGHTS...



...DESCEND AND DESTROY!

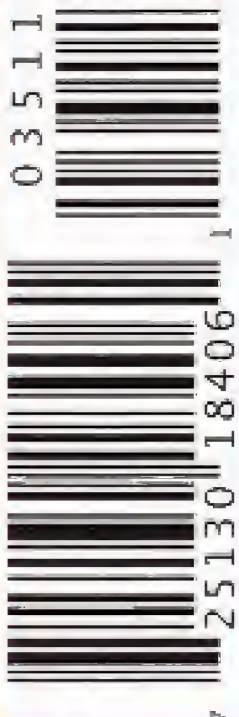
TO BE CONTINUED!

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1910





"YOU ARE EXPECTED. THE DRAGUS WAITS."



DID HE SPEAK OF THE GREATER FORM, YOUR MASTER?

HE DID.

YOU HAVE NOT YET ATTAINED IT. STEP CLOSER.



YOU ARE OF THE VAMPIRE. YOU ARE NOT OF THE DRAGON. THE LEADER OF THIS ORDER MUST POSSESS THE POWER OF BOTH.



KNEEL BEFORE ME.

I AM DYING, SISTER BEATRICE...



...AND I PASS TO YOU MY CROWN.







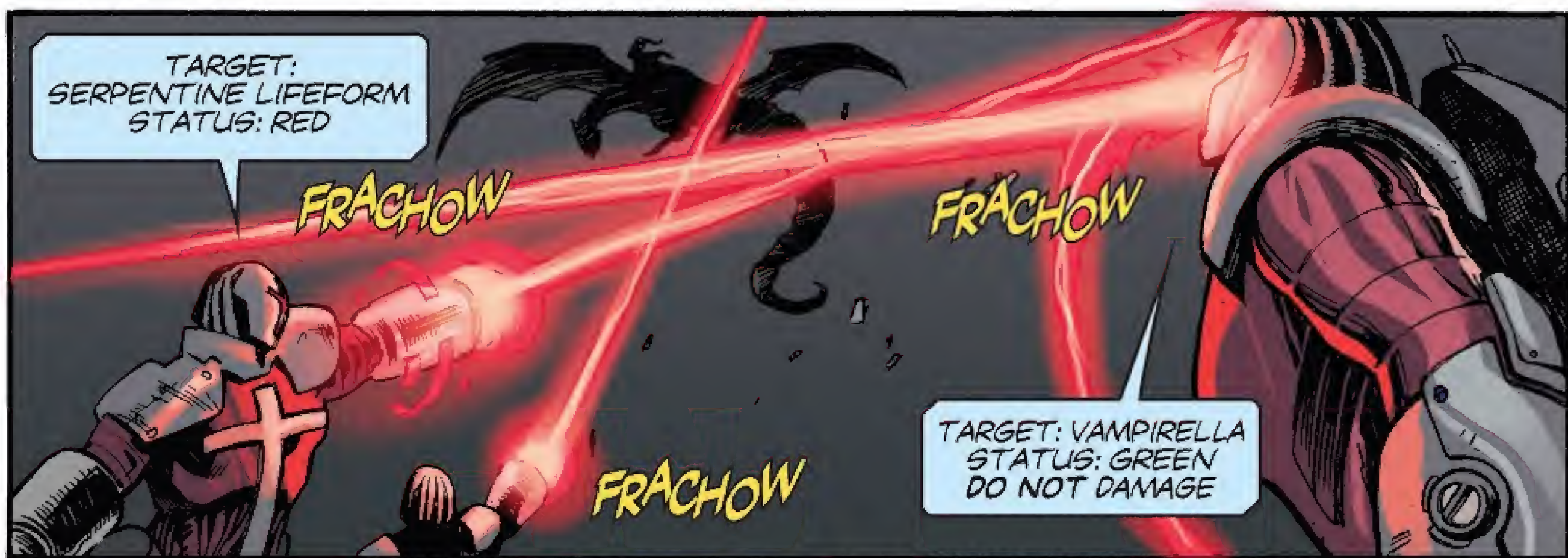
BWAKA
TOOOM

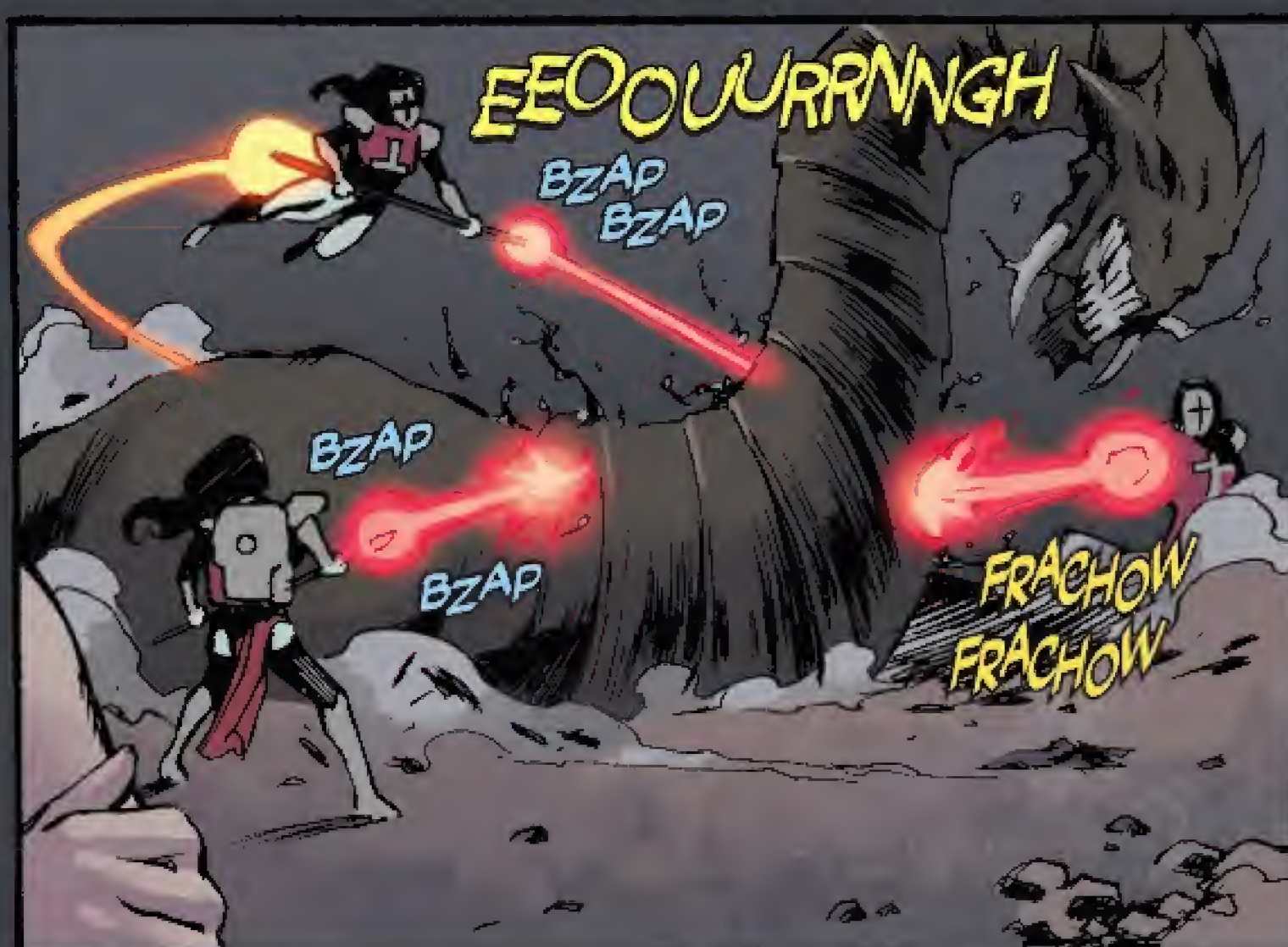
EEYYOORRRGH

WHAT
IS TH--OH!
NEVERMIND.

NO REAL
MYSTERY THERE.
YOU SHOULD
PROBABLY KILL IT
TOOT-SWEET,
THOUGH.

TEMPLARS OF
THE DRAGON--PUSH
THROUGH!









HOLD THE LINE!

VAN HELSING!
ARE YOU READY TO
SEAL THE MAIN
DOORS?!



THEY'RE
CLOSING NOW,
BRITTANY.

I'M LEAVING THIS
TO YOU, SISTER
DARCI.

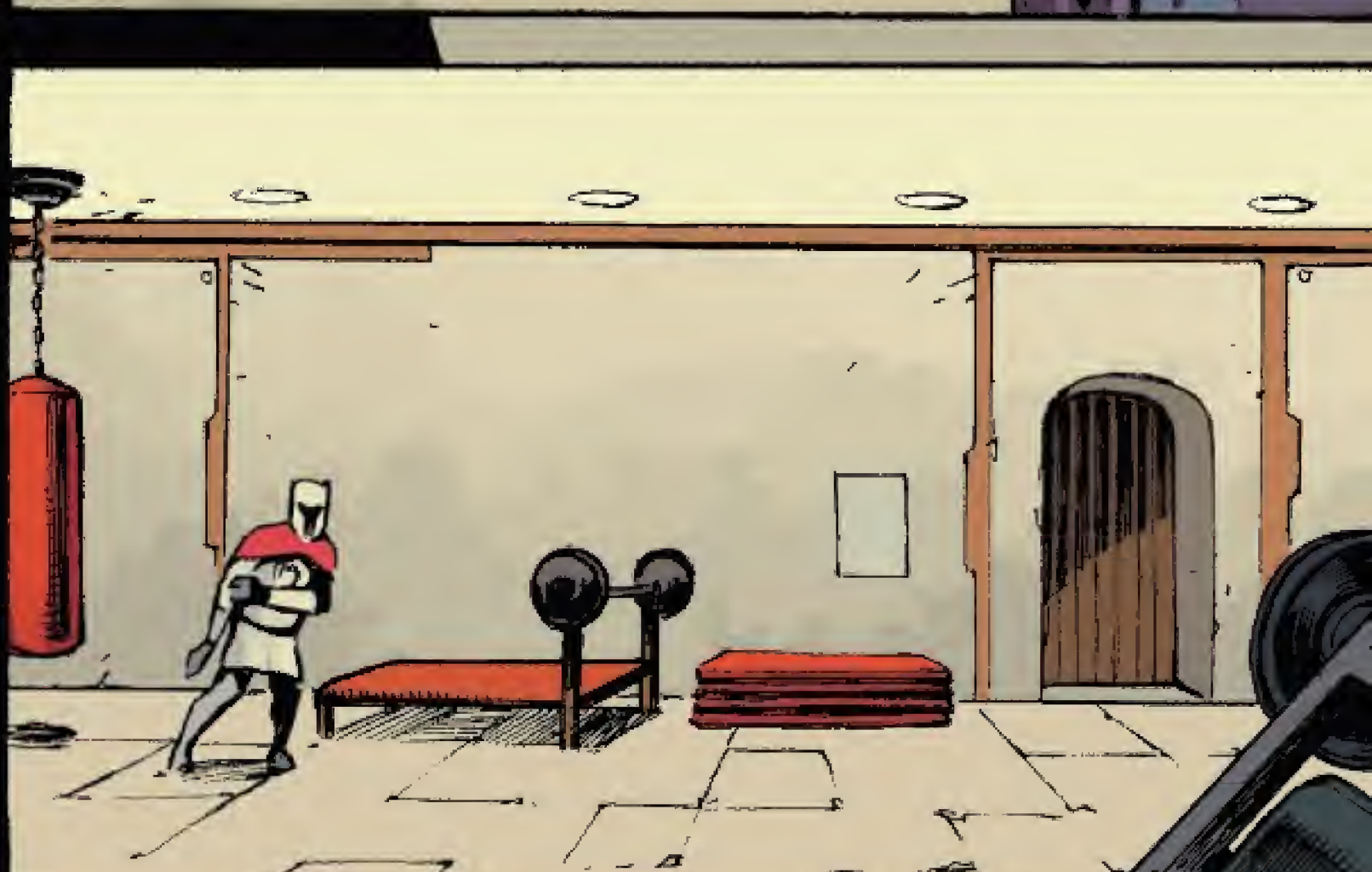
YOU'RE GOING
BACK OUT? IS
THAT WISE?



MEN CAN
OCCASIONALLY
FIGHT, TOO.



NO ONE WOULD
EVER DOUBT THAT.
BE SAFE.





HELLO?!
ANYONE?! COME
ON! I HELPED
YOU!

FRAZAK
WHOOOMP



TOOK
YOUR SWEET
GODDAMNED
TIME, DIDN'T
YOU?

JUST GET ME
OUT OF HERE. THAT
WAS THE DEAL I MADE
WITH MOTHER MIDNIGHT,
OR WHOEVER-THE-HELL
SHE IS...



SISTER
MIDNIGHT...

...AND SHE
SENDS HER
REGARDS.



FRAZAK
FRAZAK
FRAZAK



"THERE'S NO GRAND
PLAN. THIS IS A
DEALING OF DEATH,
AND IT'S
WELL-DESERVED."



THE KNIGHTS
OF THE DRAGON'S
TEMPLAR SERVE
THE CHURCH OF
VAMPYRIUS
DRAXA.

THE LAST OF THE TRUE
VAMPIRES, IN CONGRESS
WITH THE BROTHERHOOD OF
DRAGONS; THEIR LEADERSHIP
IS THE FUTURE.



IT IS A
FUTURE THAT
HOLDS NO
PLACE FOR
YOU.

HUAAAH!



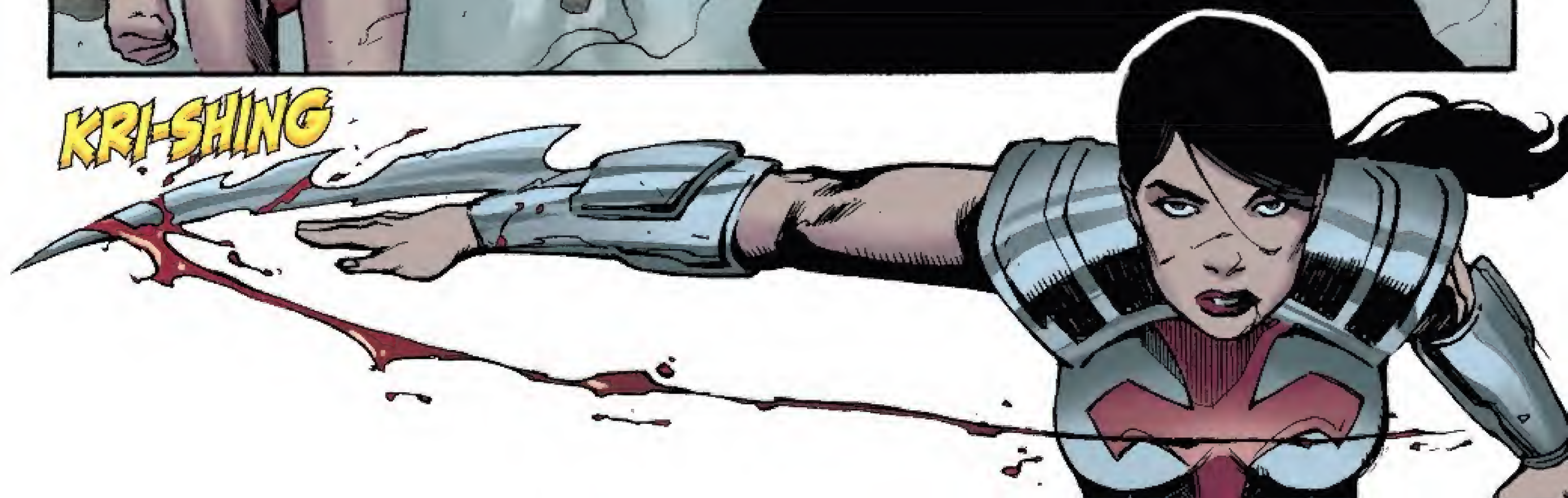
HNNH



I DON'T EVEN
KNOW YOU. NOT
THAT IT EVER
MATTERS,
RIGHT?

YOUR CHURCH HAS
JUDGED ME, AND I GUESS
I DIDN'T PASS THE TEST.
I ALREADY KNOW THIS
SONG.

KRI-SHING







FRAZAK
FRAZAK

SHING

SOK

SHUNK

ELSEWHERE

OKAY, LET'S GET STARTED.

NO RECORDING. THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

OKAY. I CAN RESPECT THAT, BUT...

...LOOK, I SHOULD BE IN COTE DE SOLEIL BY NOW. YOU CALLED ME, AND SAID YOU HAD INFORMATION ON VAMPIRELLA. SO I STAYED.

IT'S DELRAY... AND I'M JUST TRYING TO BELIEVE.

I GET THAT.

BUT YOU'RE WORRIED THAT I'M WASTING YOUR TIME, MISTER MARCH?

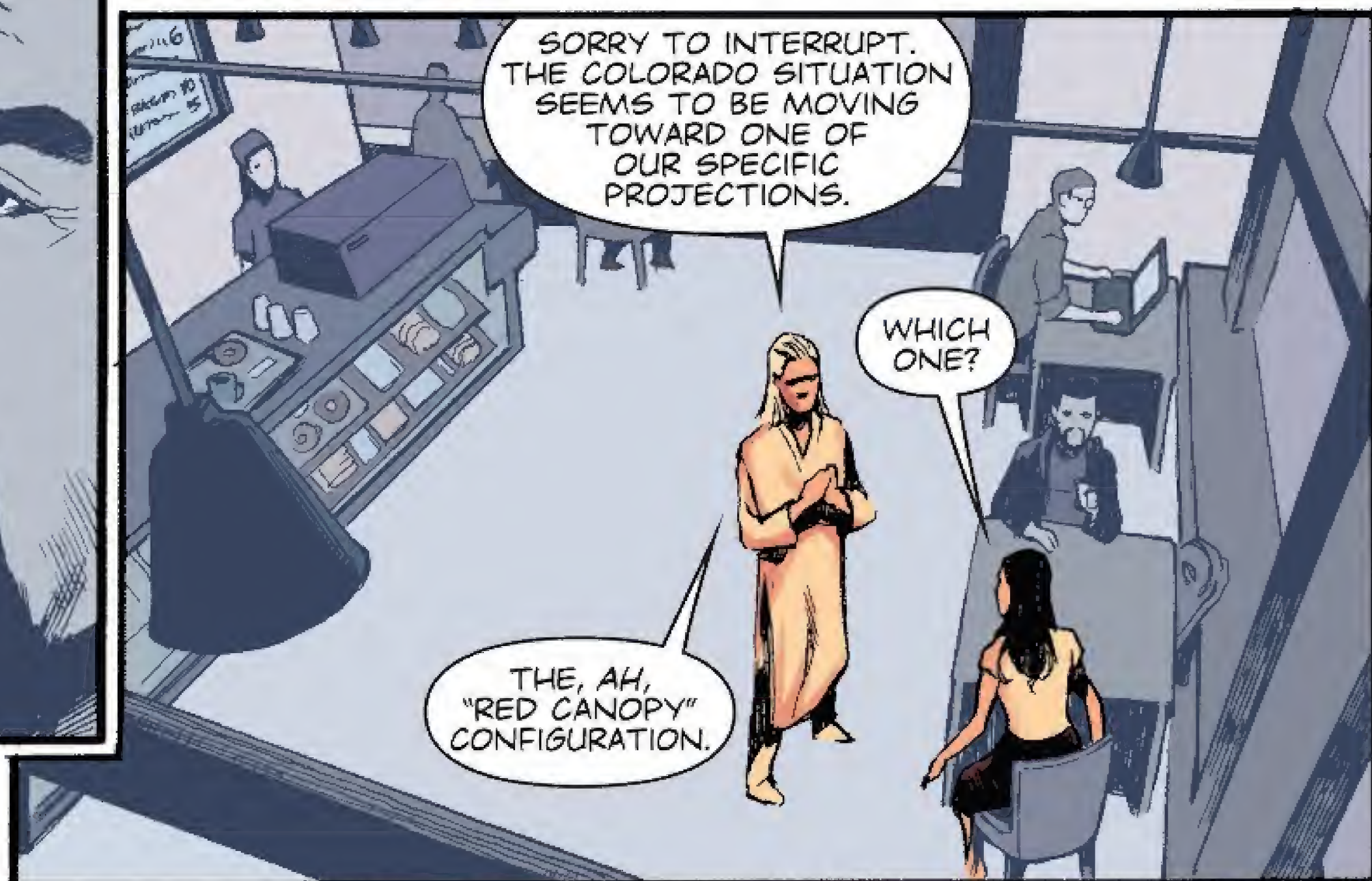
YOU'RE FASCINATED WITH VAMPIRELLA, BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN SURE IF SHE EXISTS. IS THAT THE GOAL OF YOUR INVESTIGATION?

WOULD KNOWING THAT SHE'S REAL BRING PEACE TO YOUR SOUL? DO YOU WANT TO TELL THE WORLD?

I'M NOT HUNTING HER DOWN. NOT EXACTLY.

I'VE BEEN SEEING HER FOR YEARS: IN PHOTOS, VIDEOS...AND YES, IN MY DREAMS. I NEED TO KNOW WHY I CAN SEE HER WHEN OTHERS CAN'T.

JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
THE COLORADO SITUATION
SEEMS TO BE MOVING
TOWARD ONE OF
OUR SPECIFIC
PROTECTIONS.

WHICH
ONE?

THE, AH,
"RED CANOPY"
CONFIGURATION.

THAT'S...
INTERESTING.



"RED CANOPY"
WAS FLAGGED FOR
POTENTIAL WORST-CASE
SCENARIO ACTS OF
INFLUENCE.

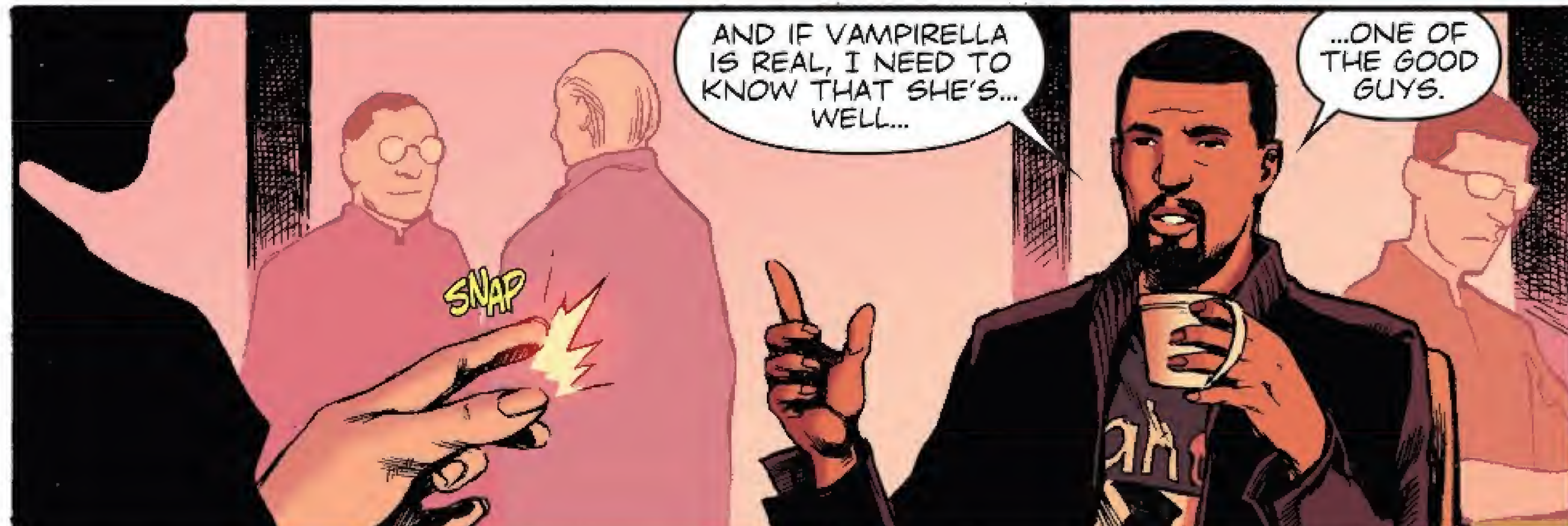


SIGH.

LITERAL
DEUS EX MACHINA?
YIKES. NO.



KEEP
AN EYE
ON IT.



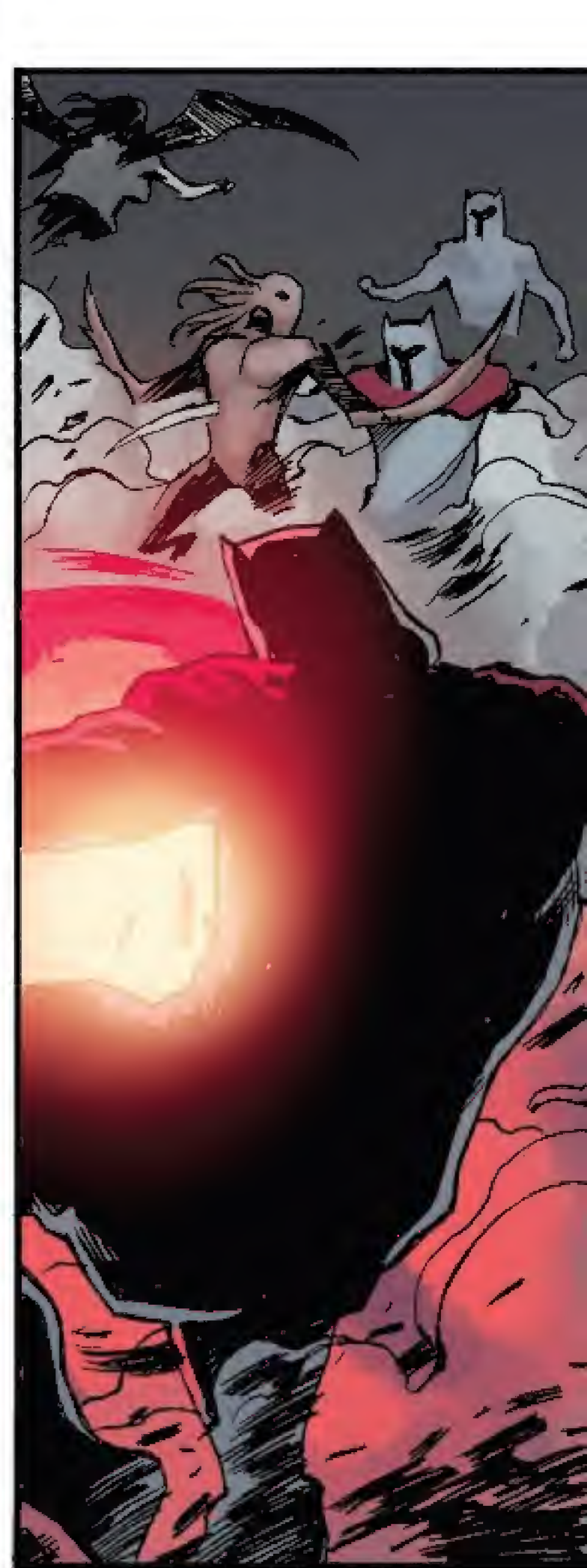
AND IF VAMPIRELLA
IS REAL, I NEED TO
KNOW THAT SHE'S...
WELL...

...ONE OF
THE GOOD
GUYS.

SNAP



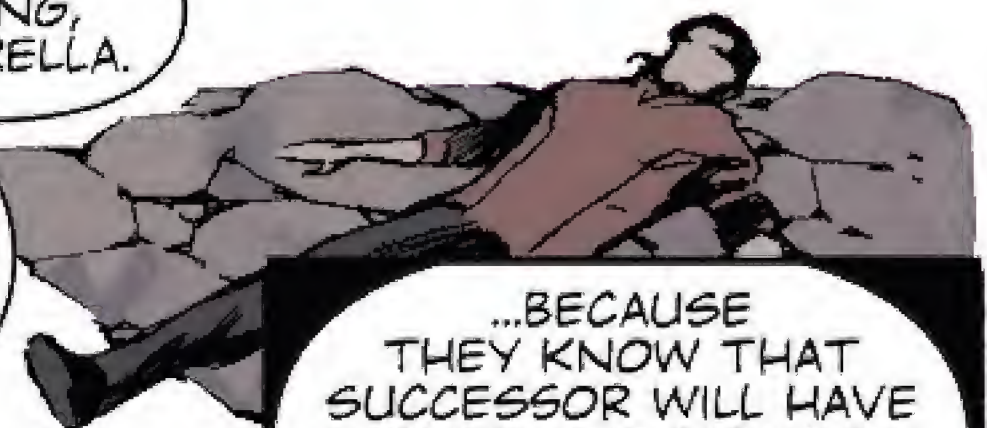
"THAT, AS THEY SAY, IS THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION RIGHT NOW."



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DRAGGING THIS OUT. LOOK AT US--WEREN'T WE IN THIS SAME CONFIGURATION JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO?

YOU DON'T BELONG, VAMPIRELLA.

NOT TO THE VAMPIRES. NOT TO THE CHURCH. NOT TO GODS, MONSTERS, OR HUMANS.



...BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT SUCCESSOR WILL HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO LEAD THEM. YOU WILL NEVER KNOW SUCH LOYALTY.



YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BECOME A LEADER, BUT YOU'RE BEING OVERTHROWN ON YOUR FIRST DAY!

I WILL LEAD THE DRAGON'S TEMPLAR UNTIL THE DAY I DIE. THE KNIGHTS WILL FOLLOW MY SUCCESSOR WITHOUT QUESTION...





M-MAYBE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I DON'T...EVEN
KNOW WHO I--
I AM.



AND YOU'RE
R-RIGHT ABOUT
THIS SCENE PLAYING
ITSELF OUT AGAIN.
TH-THERE'S NO
ADAM TO STOP
YOU.

ACCEPTANCE IS
A TONIC FOR THE
SOUL. GOODBYE,
VAMPIRELLA.



NO!

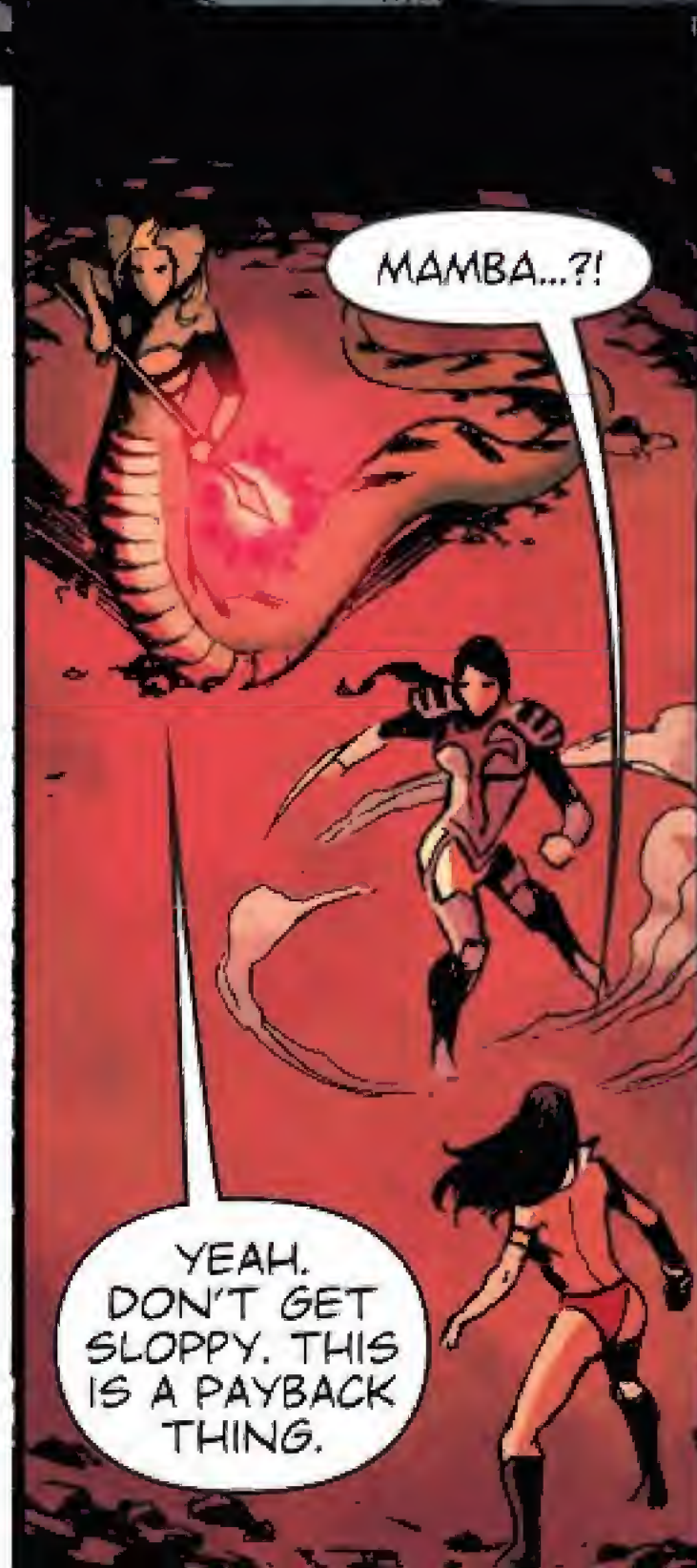
FRAZAK



VAN
HELSING--?

GUESS
AGAIN.

GOD, IT'S
LIKE PEOPLE
ARE LINING UP
TO SHOOT
YOU.



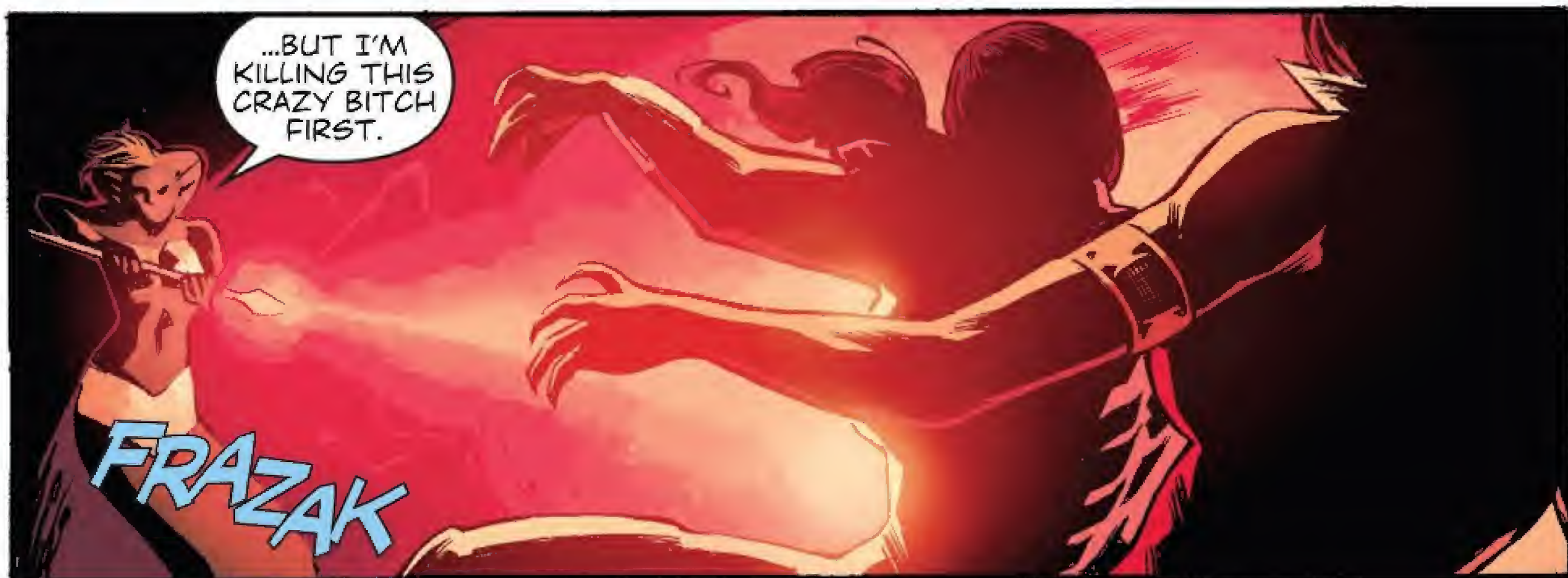
MAMBA...?!

YEAH.
DON'T GET
SLOPPY. THIS
IS A PAYBACK
THING.



MIDNIGHT GOT TO ME BEFORE YOU DID. THE WHOLE THING WAS A SETUP, AND I'M GENUINELY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU CAN PUNISH ME HOWEVER YOU'D LIKE...



...BUT I'M KILLING THIS CRAZY BITCH FIRST.

FRAZAK



HUURROOOAAH

YOU FAIL AGAIN.



EVEN MY MORTAL ENEMY DESERVED BETTER THAN BEING KILLED BY YOU.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL BE MORE THAN YOU DESERVE.

DOUBTFUL.

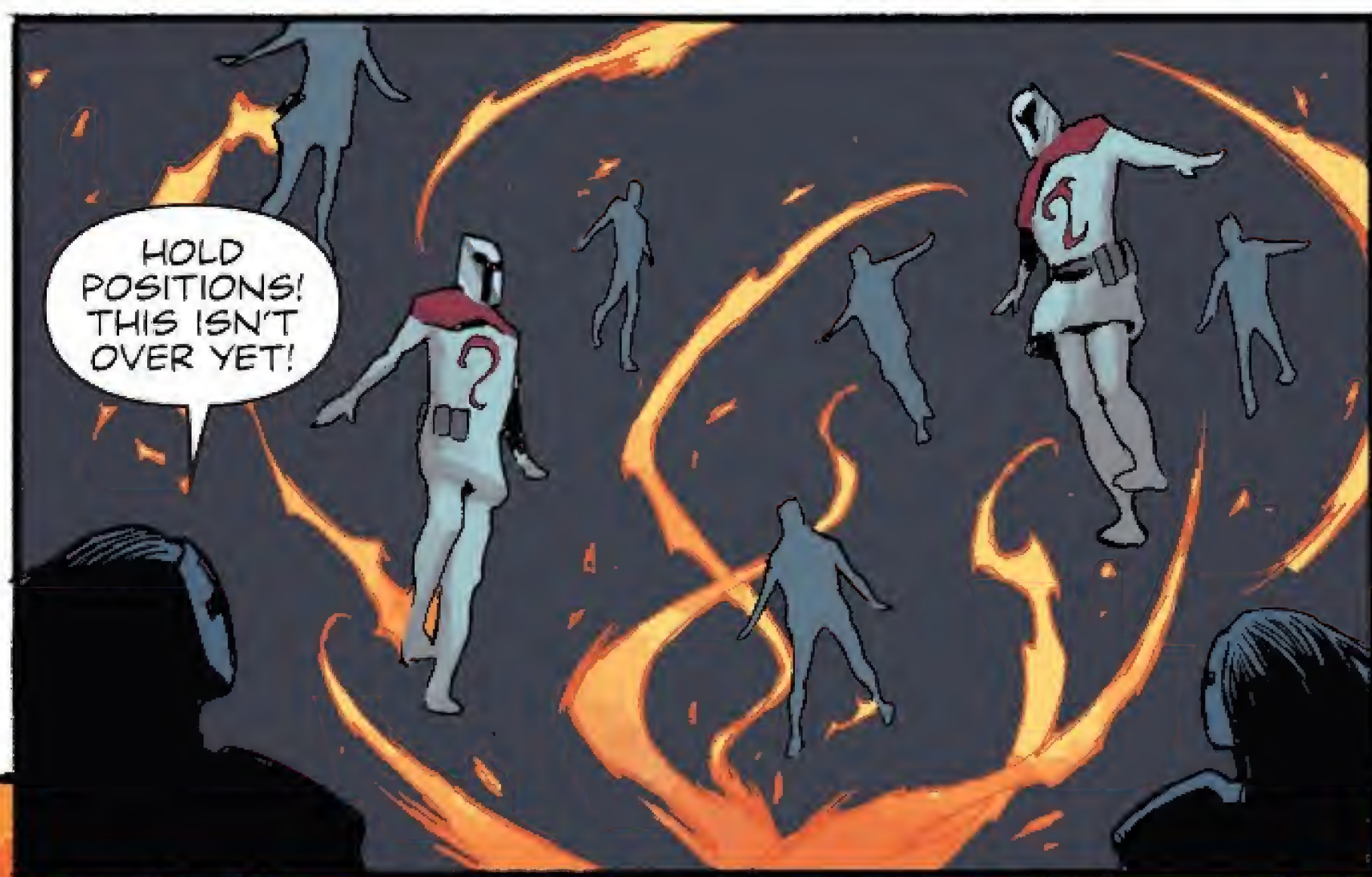


WHAT ARE YUH-YUH-YOOU DOOOIIINNG...

SHRRRIKIKIZZAAAK

EEENNNN
EEEEENNNN
NNNEEE
EENNNN

TURN IT OFF! WHAT THE HELL IS--



FWOOOOOOOOOM



YOU SEE? MY WISH BECOMES THEIR VERY PURPOSE.

MY PART IS DONE. NOW... WATCH WHAT THEY DO FOR THEIR BELOVED LEADER.



PRAY, MY SISTERS. IN THESE SECONDS BEFORE WE GIVE THE LAST OF OUR STRENGTH TO THIS BATTLE--

KNIGHTS OF THE DRAGON'S TEMPLAR! I COMMAND YOU--

--TO DISENGAGE YOUR ATTACK, AND PRESENT YOURSELVES TO YOUR BELOVED LEADER!

SISTER MIDNIGHT IS DEAD BY MY HAND! I HAVE EARNED MY PLACE AS HER SUCCESSOR!



SUCCESSOR.

SISTER BEATRICE HAS FALLEN.



PRESENT OURSELVES.

UNNNH. THAT WAS...

...OH, THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

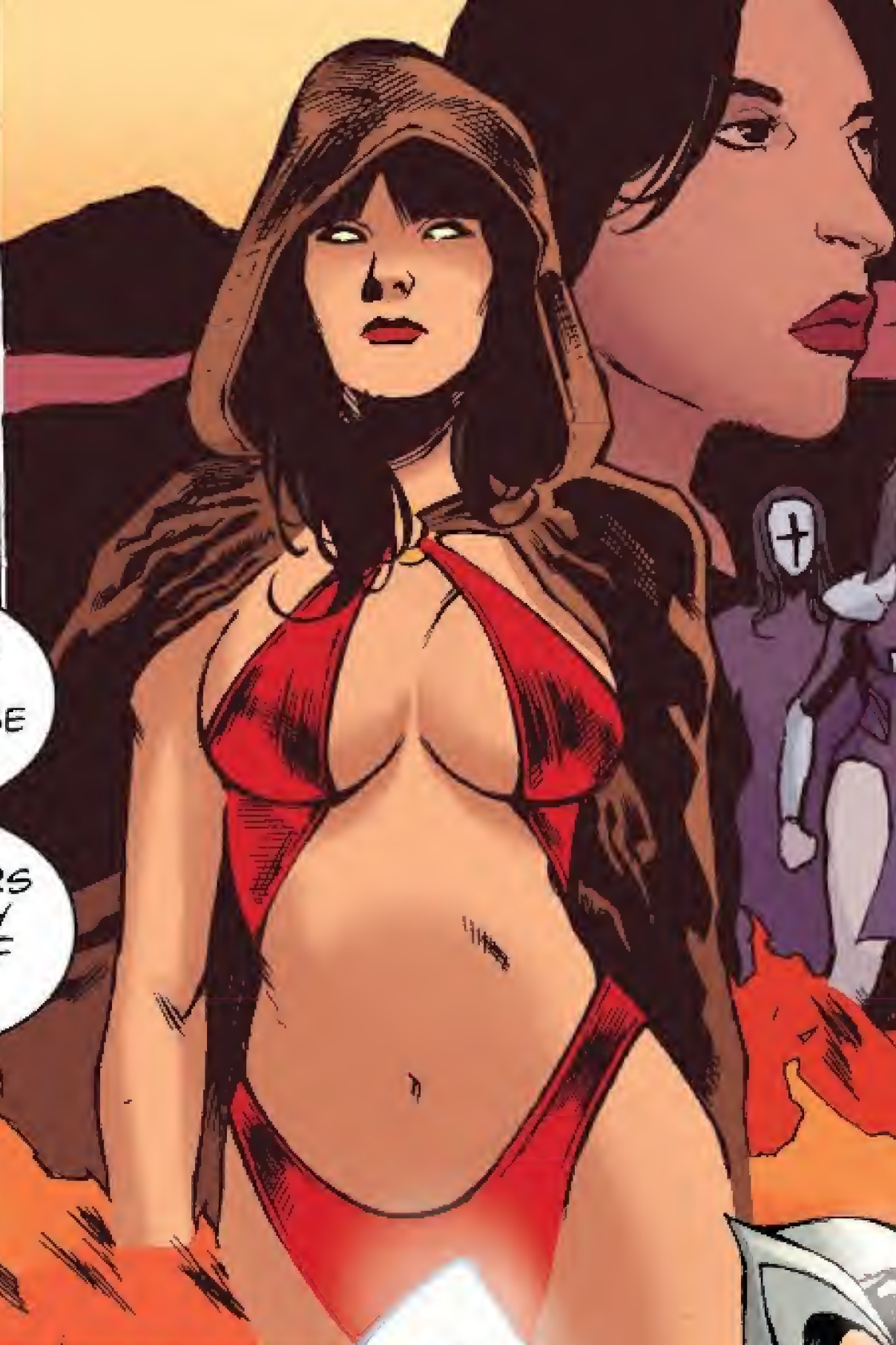






VAMPIRELLA IS BUILDING AN EMPIRE FOR HERSELF, BUT SHE IS PROVING TO BE A BLIND, RECKLESS LEADER.

TWO ARMIES OF HOLY WARRIORS DIVIDED SHARPLY BY THE BLADE OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF...



...AND A VERITABLE SIDESHOW OF LOOSELY-ASSOCIATED ALLIES WHO HAVE TAKEN UP THE MANTLE OF WAR IN EXCHANGE FOR THE COMFORT OF A KINDRED COMMUNITY.



LET ME BE CLEAR: THIS IS NOT AN EDICT. YOU HAVE EARNED CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN YOUR DEALINGS WITH ME...

...AND MY GRACE WILL ALWAYS SHINE UPON YOU.

I KNOW, AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT...



...BUT VAMPIRELLA HAS STEPPED OUT ONTO THE EDGE, AND I OWE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP BACK BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

I KNOW WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN IF SHE REFUSES...

...AND YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO SEE IT THROUGH.

NEXT- INTERVENTION

VAMPIRELLA®



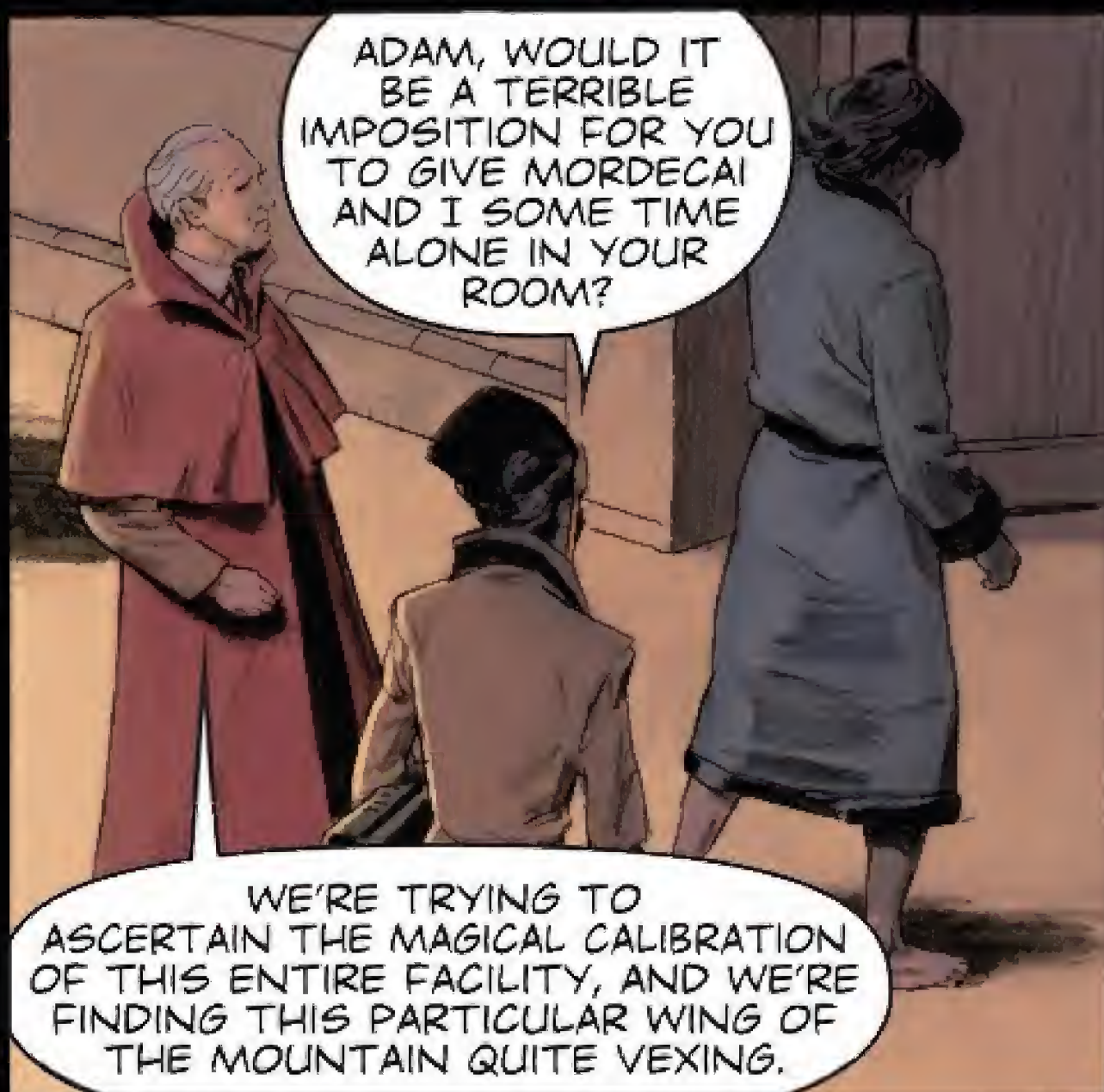
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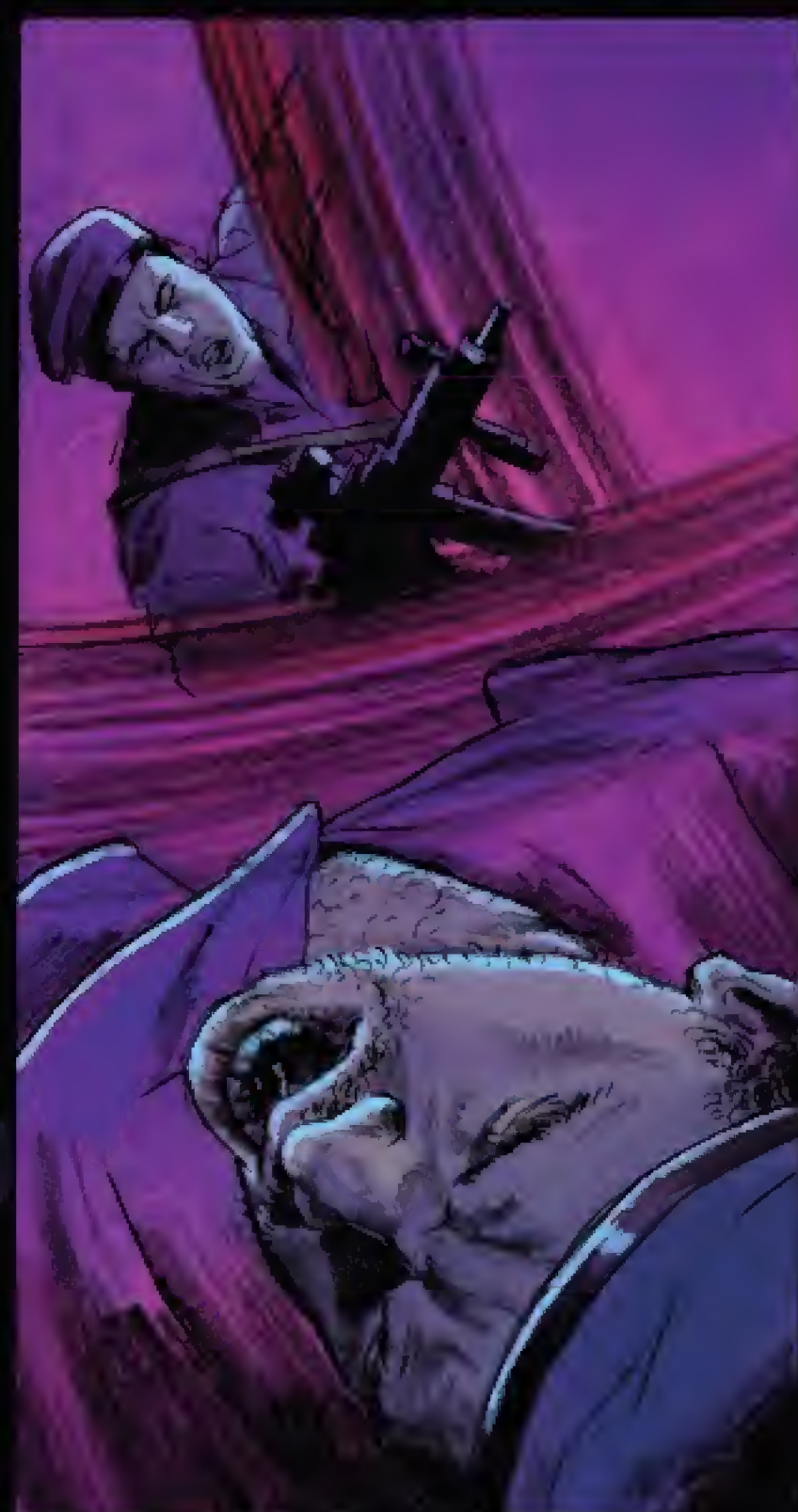






«ON
YOUR ORDER,
COMMANDER.»*

*TRANSLATED FROM AMHARIC.





<YOU DO NOT DESERVE LIFE.>

KRAK

HAUUOOORRH!



EEYYAAAAAH!

YOU DARE?!

SHRANG



THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED. WIPE THEM OUT.



STAND DOWN!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT!



<LET THE MEDIC ATTEND TO HIS FELLOW SOLDIER. I'M SURE THEY KNOW THAT WE'RE SERIOUS NOW.>

YES, YES! WE KNOW. NO TROUBLE.



<YOU CAN
COME OUT
NOW. IT'S
SAFE.>



<THESE MEN WILL NOT
HARM YOU ANYMORE.
THEY WERE MOTIVATED
BY FEAR AND
CONFUSION...>

<...BUT WE
HAVE CORRECTED
THEIR WAY OF
THINKING.>

<MY FRIENDS AND
I KNOW WHAT IT IS
TO BE HUNTED. WE HAVE
COME TO OFFER YOU A
NEW HOME, FAR AWAY
FROM HERE...>

<...WHERE YOU CAN
HELP BUILD A NEW LIFE
FOR YOURSELVES, AND
BECOME AN IMPORTANT
PART OF A NEW
SOCIETY.>



<WE HAVE HEARD STORIES
OF THIS NEW WORLD. MAY
WE SPEAK BETWEEN
OURSELVES?>

<PLEASE
DO.>



<YOU'RE LUCKY
MY FRIEND WAS HERE TO
INTERVENE ON YOUR BEHALF.
I'M IN A FAR LESS MERCIFUL
FRAME OF MIND THESE DAYS.>



I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT THAT. TAKING
A STAND IS ONE THING...

...BUT I'M NOT
COMFORTABLE
WITH WHOLESAL
SLAUGHTER.

LIKE
I SAID...IT'S
LUCKY FOR
THEM YOU'RE
HERE.



THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
COLORADO
SIX HOURS LATER





ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT MY COAT, PANTHA?

I'LL A-A-ADJUST. TH-THANKS.



I GUESS I'LL GO AHEAD AND SAY IT:

THIS WHOLE THING IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.



VAMPIRELLA'S OBSESSED WITH BUILDING HER NEW KINGDOM, OR WHATEVER IT IS...

...AND NOW SHE HAS HER OWN PRIVATE "VAMPIRE MURDER GUARDS."



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THIS IS STARTING TO SEEM CRAZY?

NOT AT ALL. AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?



WE NEED TO TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION, AND SOON...

...BUT AS DIFFICULT AS COMMUNICATION WITH VAMPIRELLA HAS BECOME; I'D STILL PREFER TO AVOID TAKING LETHAL ACTION IF WE CAN.





VAMPIRELLA...?



OH, THIS IS DELICIOUS.

YOUNG LOVE IS SO HORRIFYING.



ARE YOU EVEN WATCHING THIS?

A CURIOUS
SPECTACLE
THOU ART,
GRIGORY.

SO CONFIDENT IN
YOUR MACHINATIONS
THAT YOU CALL FOR
CELEBRATION BEFORE
VICTORY IS WON?

FOR ALL THE
POWER WE POSSESS,
WE THREE WITCHES
STILL COVET YOUR
APPARENT IMMUNITY
TO THE POISON OF
HUBRIS--

BLAH-BLAH-
BLAHDIDDY-BLAH-
BLAAAAAAH

MORE
WITCHING, LESS
BITCHING!

YOU'RE STILL
MY EMPLOYEES,
AS PER THE
CONTRACT.

NOW
SHUSH! DADDY'S
WATCHING HIS
STORIES.

FINISHED
WITH YOUR MAGIC
INSPECTION,
PENDRAGON?





NOTHING IS ANYTHING, IF SHE WISHES OTHERWISE.





THANKS.

COME
ON OUT,
VEE. LET'S
TALK.

WE CAN
TALK ALL YOU
WANT...

...BUT I THINK
WE NEED TO DO
SOMETHING ELSE
FIRST, DON'T
YOU?



SIGH.

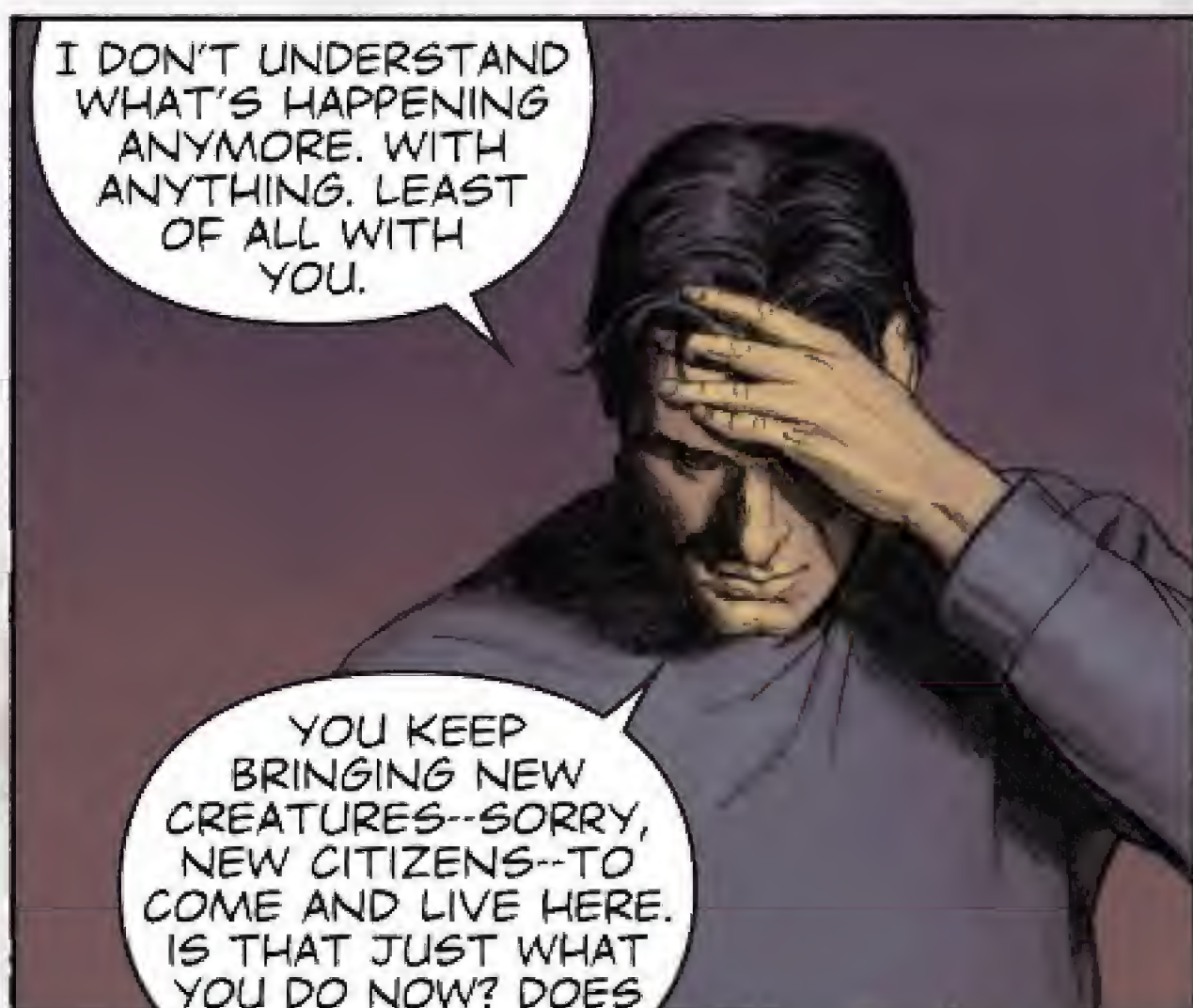
I WANT TO.
SERIOUSLY, YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
HOW BADLY I
WANT TO...

...BUT TALKING IS
MORE IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW.





YOU FIRST.
PLEASE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S HAPPENING
ANYMORE. WITH
ANYTHING. LEAST
OF ALL WITH
YOU.

YOU KEEP
BRINGING NEW
CREATURES--SORRY,
NEW CITIZENS--TO
COME AND LIVE HERE.
IS THAT JUST WHAT
YOU DO NOW? DOES
IT EVER END?



IT MADE SOME KIND
OF SENSE TO ME AT
FIRST. I THOUGHT
YOU WERE LOOKING
FOR PEACE AND
PROSPERITY...

...BUT
THOSE IDEAS
WENT OUT THE
WINDOW WHEN YOU
BECAME THE QUEEN
MOTHER OF THOSE
DRAGON TEMPLAR
THUGS.

WHAT'S THE
ENDGAME HERE, VEE?
HOW LONG BEFORE YOU
STOP OFFERING
SANCTUARY, AND START
PRESS-GANGING NEW
RECRUITS?



I LOVE
YOU, VEE.

I LOVE
YOU, BUT I'M
SCARED TO
DEATH OF
YOU NOW.



I'M ALMOST SAD TO KNOW THAT THIS LITTLE DRAMA IS NEARING ITS TRAGIC END.

ALMOST.



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR US TO TAKE THE STAGE, YOU LOT. TRY TO SHOW SOME ENTHUSIASM.



YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME? PLEASE, EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

I'M AFRAID OF WHAT YOU MIGHT BECOME.



YOU'RE FORCING ME TO BRING THIS UP, ADAM. STANDING THERE, TELLING ME YOU'RE AFRAID OF WHAT I MIGHT BECOME...

...YOU'RE MAKING ME DEFEND MYSELF WITH THE HARSH, COLD TRUTH.

YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW IN THE FUTURE. I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, NO MATTER HOW AWFUL IT WAS TO RECOUNT IT.

YES, YOU SERVED ON THE SIDE OF ORDER...

...BUT IT TURNED YOU INTO AN OBSESSIVE, CONTROLLING TYRANT.



YOU WERE SO INTENT ON KEEPING ME IN MY PLACE...SO DRIVEN TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ME...

PLEASE DON'T SAY IT. DON'T MAKE ME HEAR IT AGAIN.

WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LOSE ME AGAIN, YOU TRIED TO KILL ME...

...BUT CRISWELL GOT IN THE WAY! HE DIED SAVING ME FROM YOU, ADAM!



NO ONE SHOULD EVER HAVE TO BE SAVED FROM SOMEONE THEY LOVE!

SHKRAKAKAKAKAAAAAK



WE HEARD SHOUTING, MISTRESS!

IS THIS MAN CAUSING A PROBLEM...?



KRAK-KIK-KRAAAK

NO, HE'S--

OH, I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO CAUSE A PROBLEM.





KRAKOOOOOM

SHE
DOESN'T
BELONG
TO YOU!

ADAM,
WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOING--?!





NO TIME FOR CHIT-CHAT. I'M NOT GOING TO THROW AWAY THIS VICTORY BY GIVING INTO A MONOLOGUE...

WITCHES, KILL EVERYONE IN THE ROOM!

WHAT SUBTERFUGE IS THIS? WE ARE HELD FAST BY A FORCE UNSEEN!

IF THOU HAST BETRAYED US, GRIGORY--

RIGHT! SURE! BECAUSE THAT MAKES ANY KIND OF SENSE!

WHAT IN THE SACRED NAME OF HELL IS KEEPING ME FROM A HAPPY ENDING?!



THAT WOULD BE A VERY SPECIFIC BINDING SPELL, DEVISED BY THE DARK LADY LILITH, AND YOURS TRULY.

THIS MOUNTAIN BASE HAS A PERMANENT HEALTH ENCHANTMENT CAST UPON IT; A SIMPLE SPELL THAT REDUCES EVERYDAY AILMENTS LIKE JOINT PAIN, BLOODY NOSES...



...AND HEADACHES.

WHEN ADAM STARTED HAVING DAILY MIGRAINES, WE REALIZED SOMEONE MUST BE TRYING TO PLAY INSIDE HIS HEAD...

...SO WE DECIDED TO SET A TRAP.



I HATE YOU ALL...

...AND YOU THREE USELESS DOLTS ARE FIRED.



ADAM...

ADAM,
PLEASE!
JUST HEAR
ME OUT!



I DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT ANY
OF THIS--

THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

I'M SORRY
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED BETWEEN
US. WE SAID THINGS
IN THE HEAT OF
THE MOMENT, BUT
I KNOW WE
DIDN'T--

YOU DON'T
BELIEVE THAT,
AND NEITHER
DO I.

WE MEANT
EVERY WORD
WE SAID IN THERE,
AND I'M GLAD
THE TRUTH IS
FINALLY OUT.

WE'RE BOTH
AFRAID OF THE
FUTURE, AND WE
HAVE WILDLY
DIFFERENT VIEWS
ON THE BEST
WAY TO GET
THERE...

...SO I'LL
TAKE MY
PATH, AND
YOU TAKE
YOURS.



DESTINY
CAN DECIDE
THE REST.



THE END

DYNAMITE
37

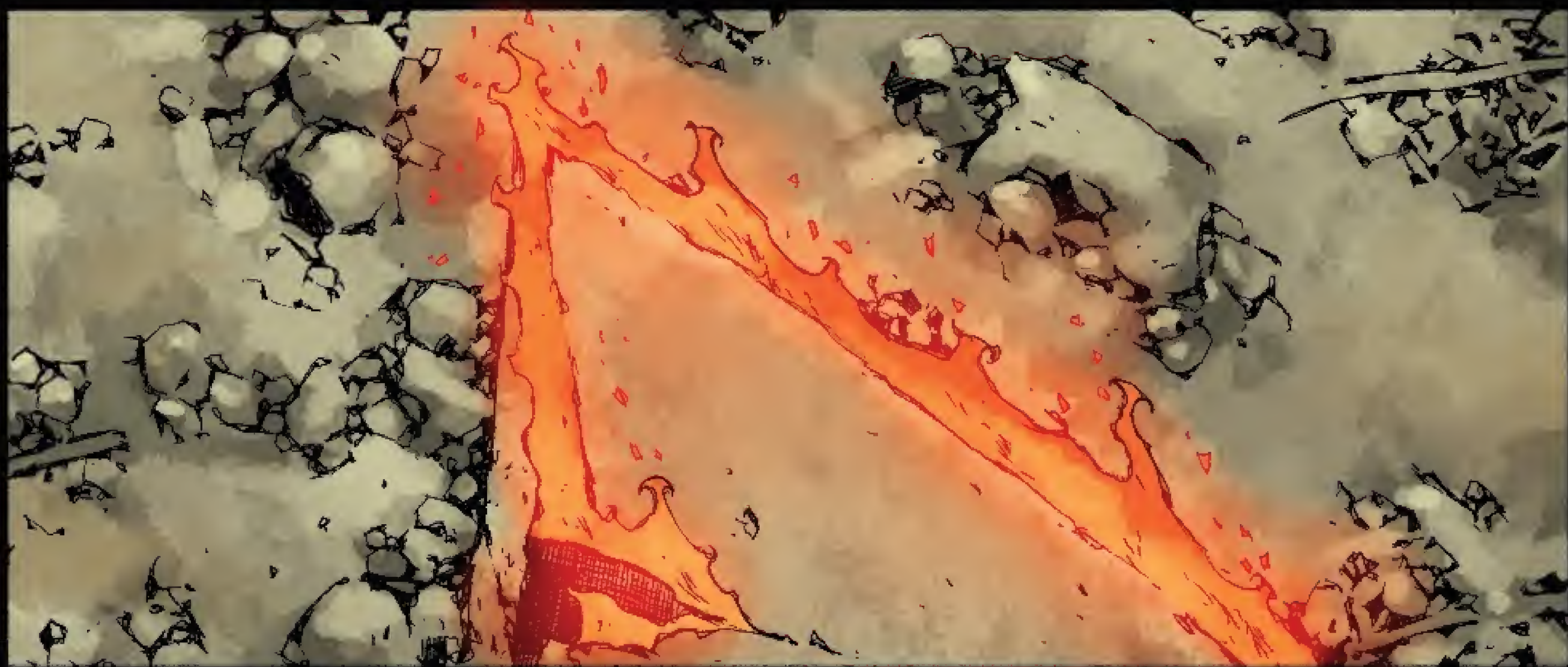
VAMPIRELLA®



DYNAMITE
37

VAMPIRELLA®







I COMMAND
THEE...

...RISE AND
BE REVEALED,
THAT I MAY
ENTER.





COME NOW, CHILDREN. WE HAVE MUCH TO ACCOMPLISH TODAY.

A MOTHER'S WORK IS NEVER DONE, YOU KNOW...



HELLO AGAIN, LILITH. I'M SORRY I HAD TO ASK YOU BACK SO SOON AFTER YOUR LAST VISIT--

MY TIME IS IN LIMITED SUPPLY TODAY, BAZRYS. WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME?



AH... THERE'S BEEN AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT WITH ONE OF THE NEW ITEMS YOU ASKED ME TO ARCHIVE.



I'M LISTENING.

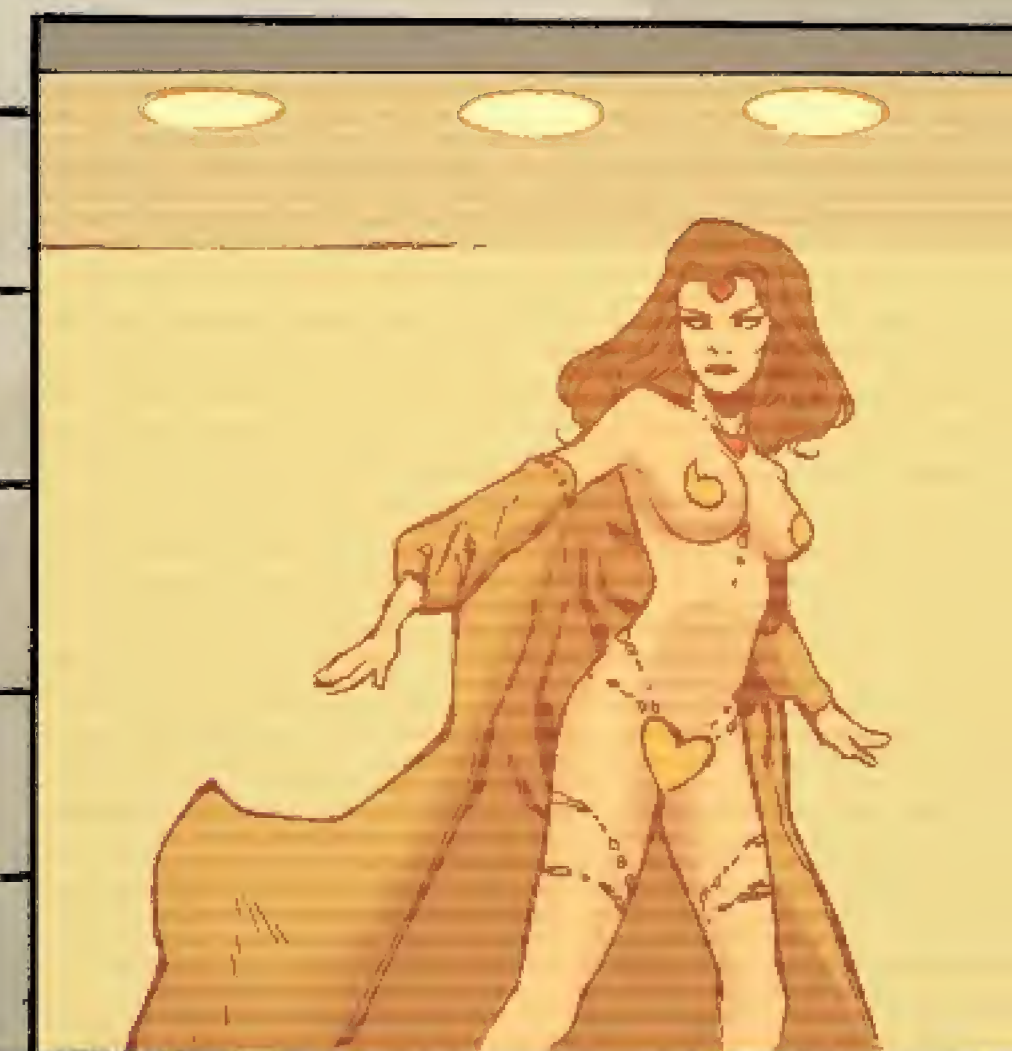
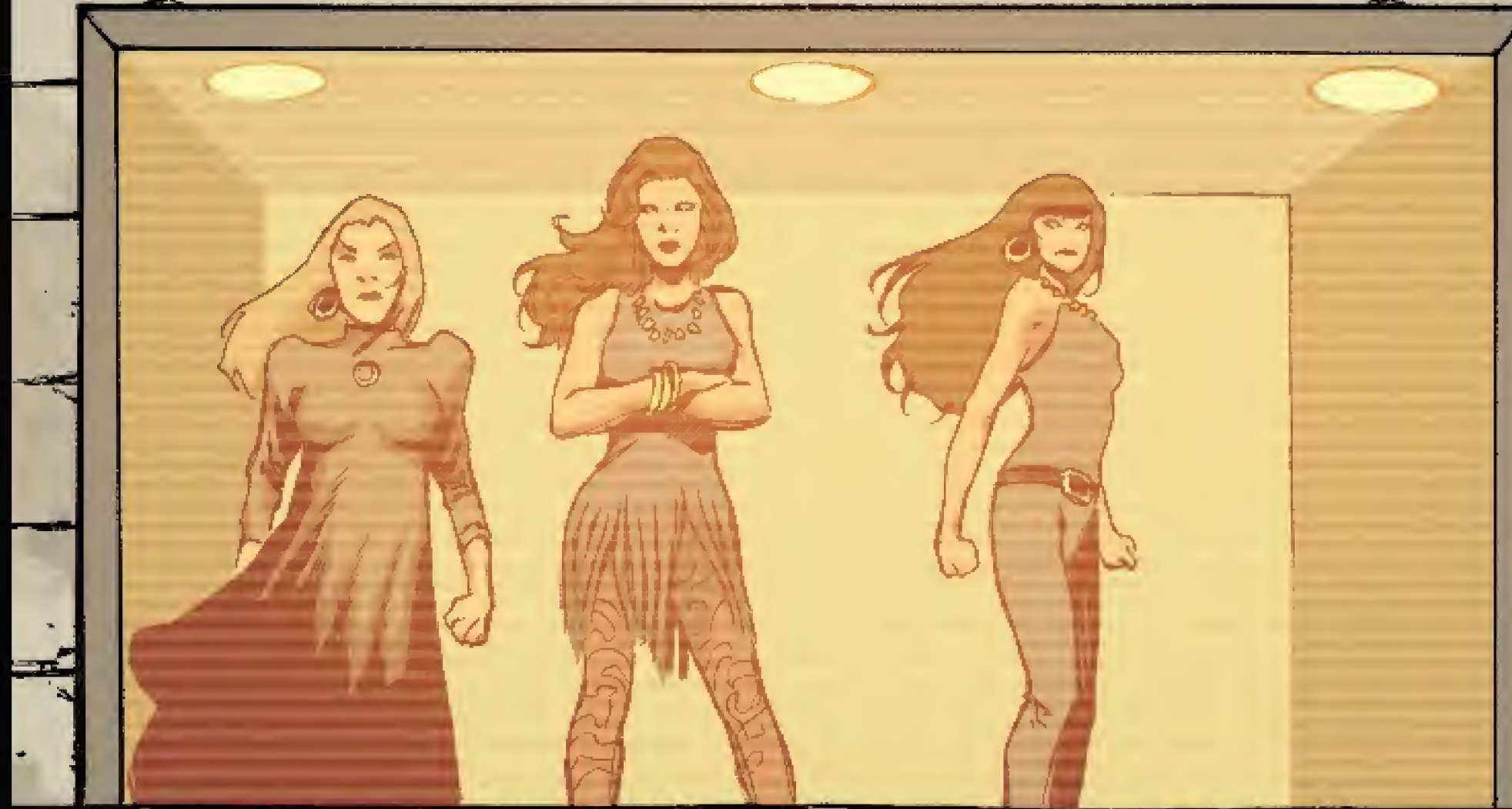
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, BECAUSE THIS ISSUE DEFINITELY REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION.



YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.

I REHEARSED AN EXPLANATION, BUT EVERY NEW VERSION SOUNDED MORE INSANE THAN THE LAST...

...AND IN THIS PLACE, THAT'S SAYING QUITE A BIT.



RIGHT
THIS WAY,
PLEASE.

LILITH THE
JUDAS!

SIGH
MAYBE SOMEDAY,
YOU'LL RECEIVE A
WARMER WELCOME
HERE.



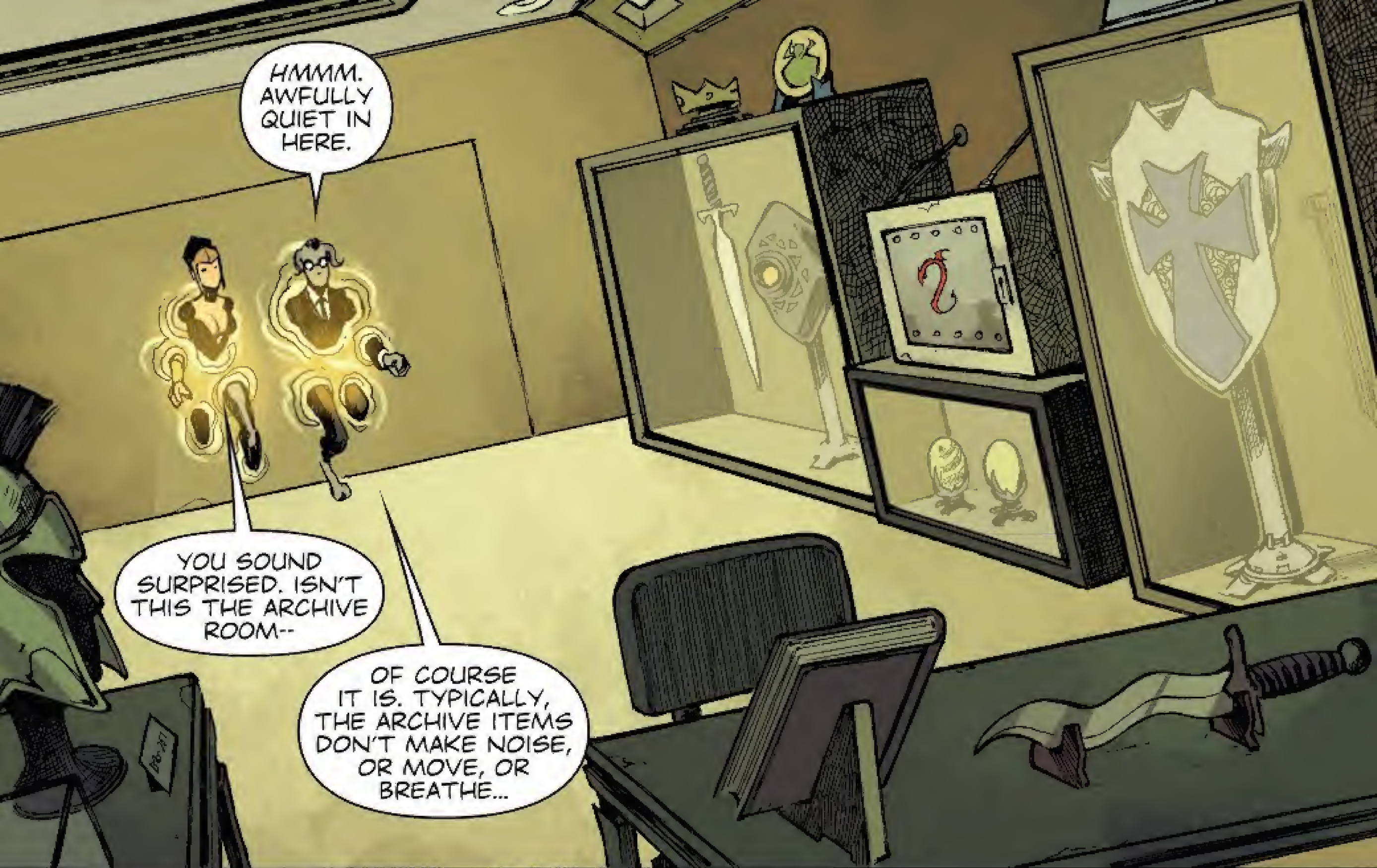
THAT
MAY BE THE
MOST LUDICROUS
THING I'VE EVER
HEARD...

...AND IN
THIS PLACE,
THAT'S SAYING
QUITE A BIT.



DID...
DID YOU
JUST MAKE
A JOKE?

YOU'LL
NEVER
KNOW.



HMMM.
AWFULLY
QUIET IN
HERE.

YOU SOUND
SURPRISED. ISN'T
THIS THE ARCHIVE
ROOM--

OF COURSE
IT IS. TYPICALLY,
THE ARCHIVE ITEMS
DON'T MAKE NOISE,
OR MOVE, OR
BREATHE...



THERE
IS POWER,
POWER.

WONDER
WORKING
POWER.

IN THE
BLOOD OF
THE LAMB;

THERE
IS POWER,
POWER,

WONDER
WORKING
POWER.

IN THE
PRECIOUS
BLOOD OF
THE LAMB.



...BUT THIS
ONE'S BEEN A
PERSISTENTLY
ANNOYING
EXCEPTION.



WHY, IF IT
ISN'T THE
MOTHER OF
ALL SIN.

I DON'T
KNOW IF WE
WERE PROPERLY
INTRODUCED BEFORE
YOUR DAUGHTER
LOPPED OFF MY
HEAD, LILITH.

MY NAME
IS BEATRICE,
BUT YOU WILL
ADDRESS ME
AS SISTER
MIDNIGHT.

NOW,
YOU'RE GOING
TO DO EXACTLY
WHAT I TELL
YOU TO...



I'LL GET THE SENTRIES.

LOCKED?! HOW IS SHE CONTROLLING--

...AND IF YOU REFUSE, THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF SUFFERING FOR YOU AND YOURS.



"SHE" IS A SURVIVOR. "SHE" IS A CHOSEN WARRIOR OF THE DRAGON TEMPLAR.

"SHE" HAS BEEN QUIETLY RISING TO POWER FOR THE LAST CENTURY.



WELL, "SHE" NEEDS TO CONVINCE ME THAT HER THREATS AREN'T AS DUBIOUS AS HER SITUATION MIGHT INDICATE.

WHY WOULD I TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU?



YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU'RE TALKING TO THE DISEMBODED HEAD OF AN ENEMY THAT YOU BELIEVED HAD BEEN SLAIN IN BATTLE.

UNDERESTIMATE ME IF YOU'D LIKE. I'LL CONTINUE TO SURPRISE YOU.

THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE MINE; THE CHOICES ARE YOURS. BE WISE, LILITH.

FIRST, YOU WILL CONTACT YOUR DAUGHTER.



SIX MINUTES TO TARGET AREA, VAMPIRELLA.

SOMEWHERE OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO
4 HOURS LATER



CAN YOU
HEAR ME,
MOTHER?

IN MY
HEAD, AND
IN MY
HEART.



HATCH IS
POPPED. YOU
MAY JUMP
AT WILL.



IF I
DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER...

...I'D ALMOST
SWEAR I'M PICKING
UP A SENSE OF
RELIEF FROM
YOU.

GUILTY AS
CHARGED.

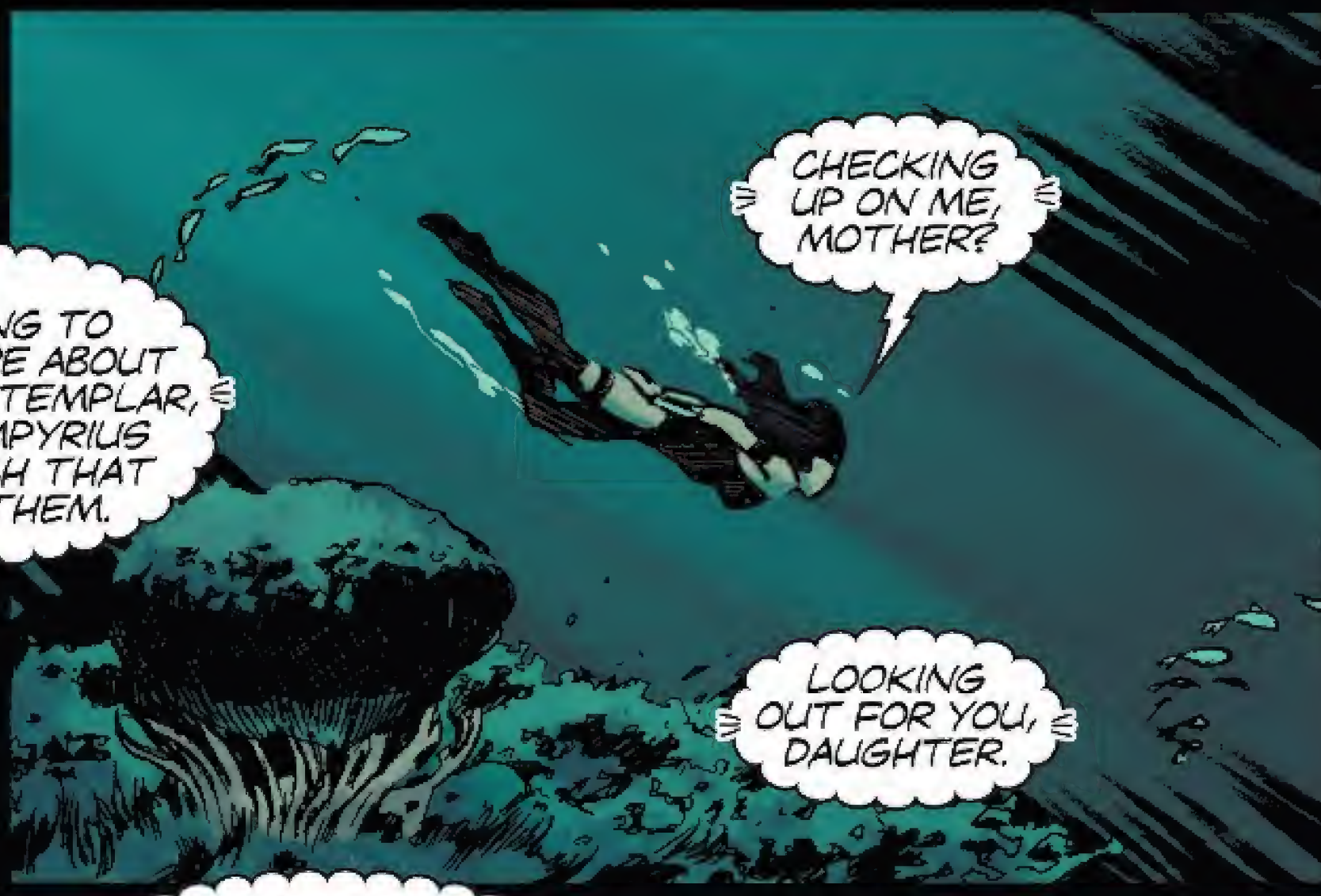
WHAT CAN
I SAY? I'VE NEVER
BEEN VERY GOOD AT
FEELING THE RIGHT
THING AT THE
RIGHT TIME.



NOW THAT I'VE
JUMPED INTO THE
GULF OF MEXICO,
AS PER YOUR
REQUEST...

...WOULD YOU
MIND TELLING
ME WHY?

I'VE
BEEN TRYING TO
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THE DRAGON'S TEMPLAR,
AND THE VAMPYRIUS
DRAXA CHURCH THAT
SPAWNED THEM.



CHECKING
UP ON ME,
MOTHER?

LOOKING
OUT FOR YOU,
DAUGHTER.



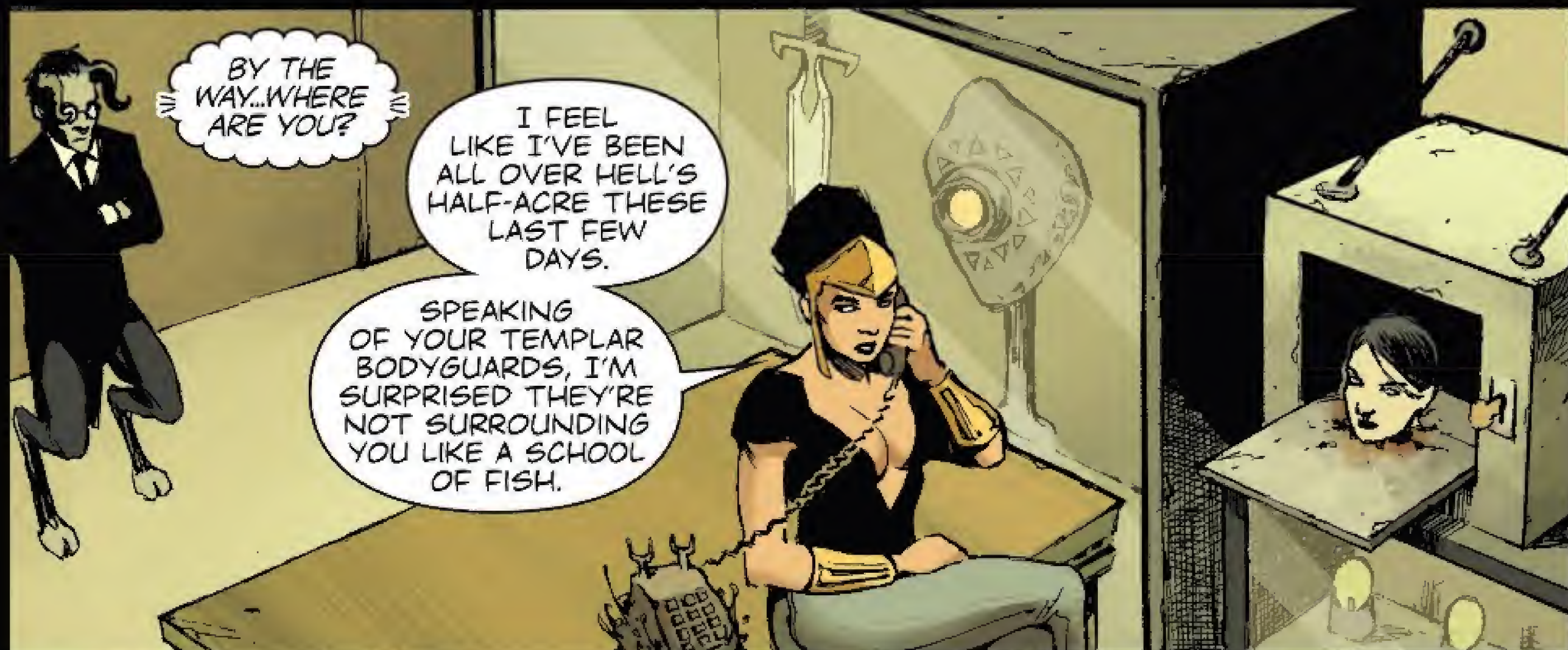
JUST A FEW
HOURS AGO, ONE OF
MY CONTACTS TOLD ME
SISTER BEATRICE HAD
HIRED HIM TO HELP HER
FIND THE SUNKEN
REMAINS OF AN ANCIENT
VAMPIRE KINGDOM...



...BUT
SHE DIDN'T
LIVE TO LAY CLAIM
TO THE FRUITS
OF HIS LABOR.

SO,
WE'RE CLAIMING IT
BEFORE SOMEONE
ELSE DOES. I LIKE
IT.





BY THE WAY...WHERE ARE YOU?

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN ALL OVER HELL'S HALF-ACRE THESE LAST FEW DAYS.

SPEAKING OF YOUR TEMPLAR BODYGUARDS, I'M SURPRISED THEY'RE NOT SURROUNDING YOU LIKE A SCHOOL OF FISH.



YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS: THEY DIDN'T EVEN ARGUE WHEN I TOLD THEM TO STAY IN COLORADO.

THEY'RE CERTAINLY DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF THEIR LEADER.



MAYBE YOU EARNED A LITTLE EXTRA DEVOTION FROM THEM. I'M SURE THEY ALL WANTED TO CUT BEATRICE'S HEAD OFF.

TAUNT ME AGAIN, AND I WILL CONSIDER IT A BREACH OF OUR AGREEMENT.

MY APOLOGIES. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON THE TASK.

NOW I'M PICKING UP A FEELING. WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?



NOTHING WORTH MY ATTENTION, I PROMISE YOU.

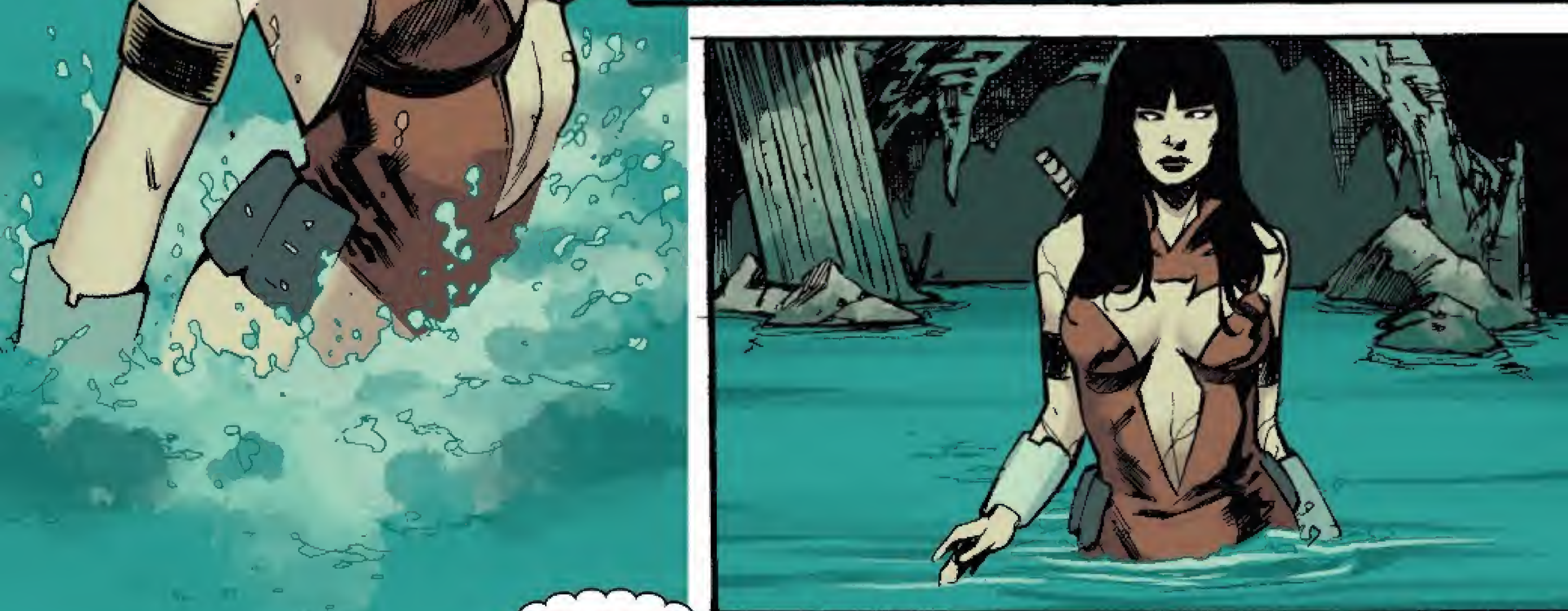
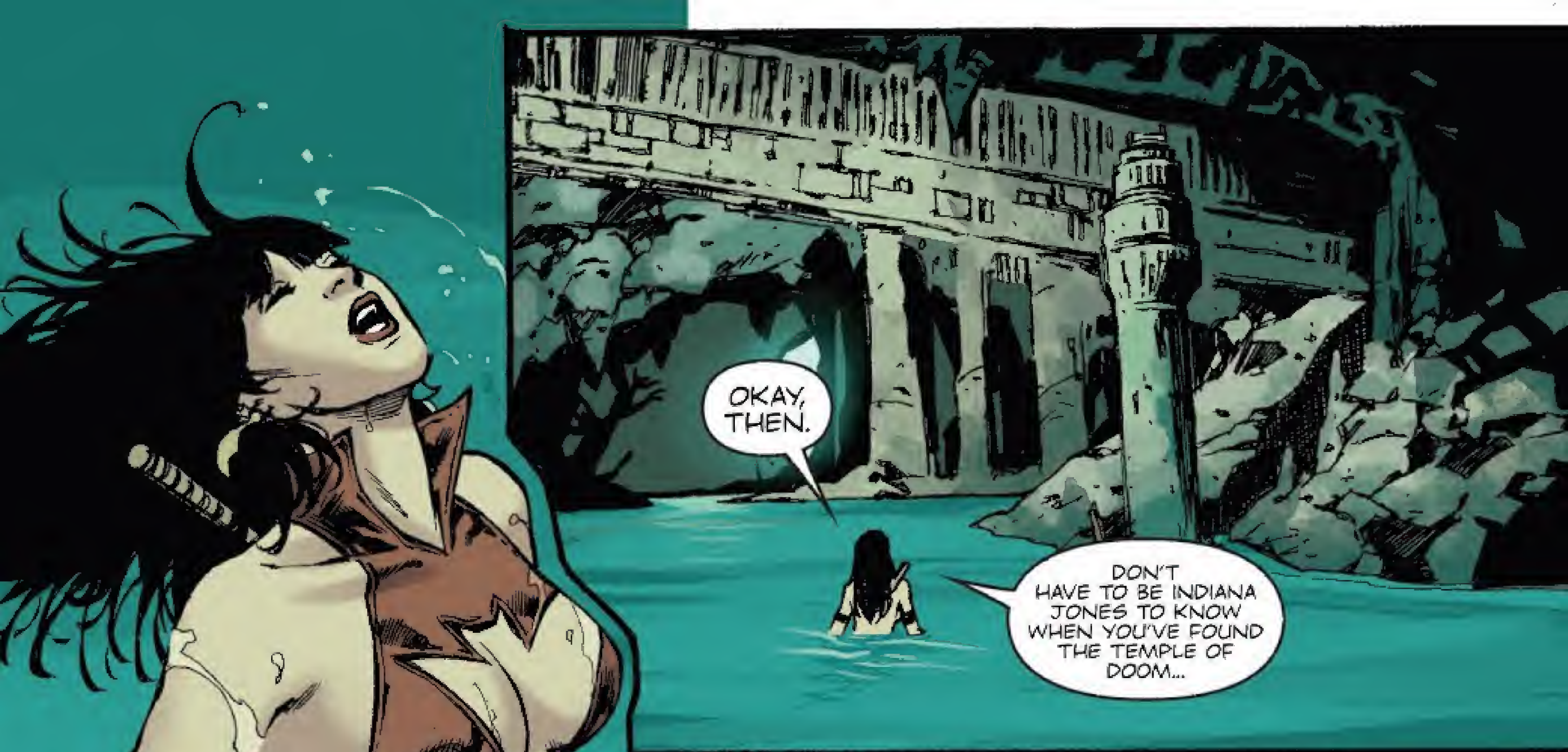


I'VE REACHED THE COORDINATES YOU GAVE ME.

PREMS ME YELL CELL FHELP IF THERS TRBL

MOTHER? YOU'RE CUTTING OUT.







COLORS.
OR.
DECREE.

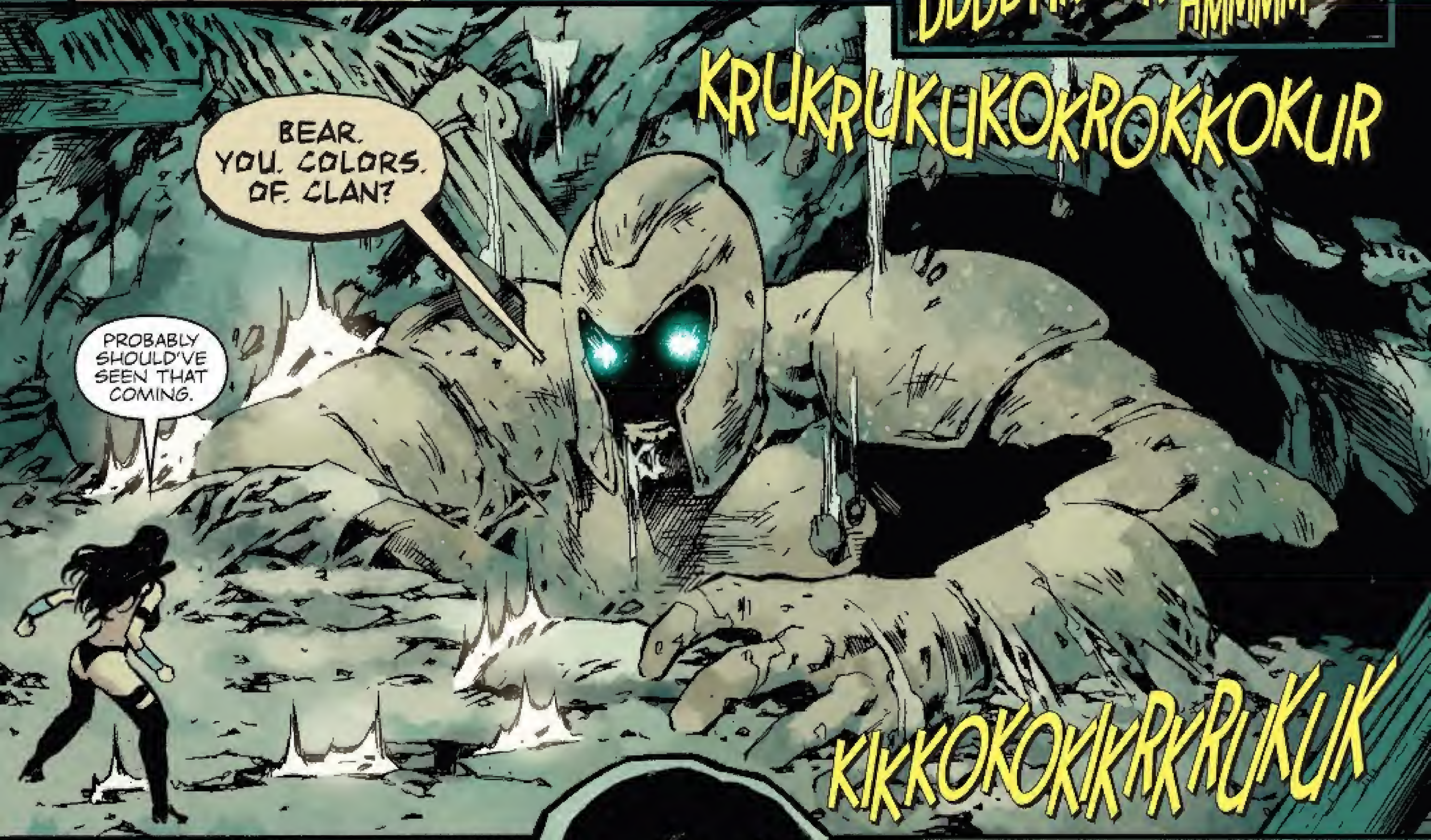
SAY, MOM...
DID YOUR CONTACT
MENTION ANYTHING
ABOUT DEEP VOICES
COMING FROM
NOWHERE?

NO.



WHUH--

HMMMM
DDDDHRRRR HMMMM



BEAR.
YOU. COLORS.
OF. CLAN?

PROBABLY
SHOULD'VE
SEEN THAT
COMING.

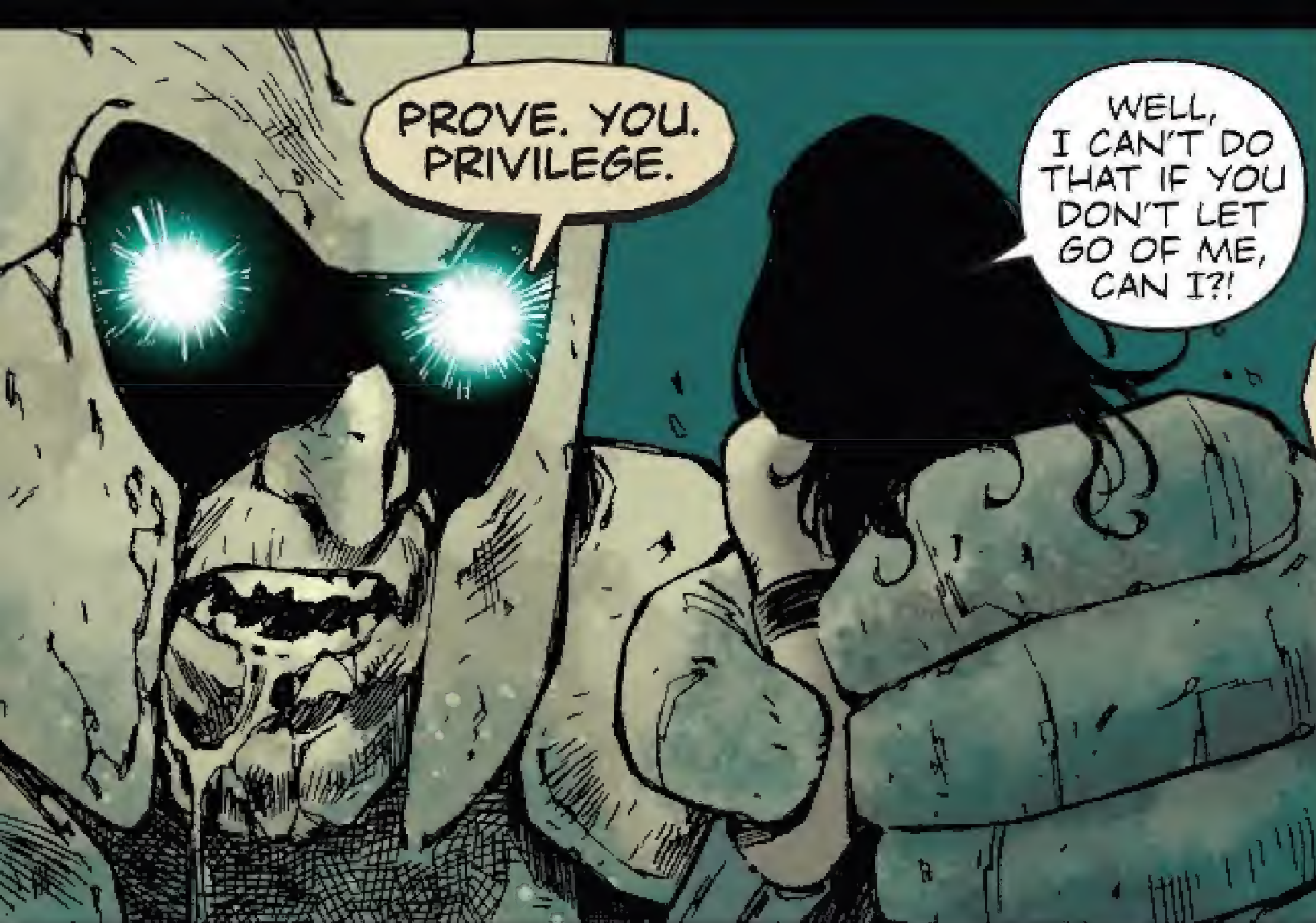
KRUKRUKOKROKKOKUR

KIKKOKOKIKRRUKUK



BEAR.
YOU. ROYAL.
DECREE?

WET S
HEPPING? CEN
YEEER ME??



PROVE. YOU. PRIVILEGE.

WELL, I CAN'T DO THAT IF YOU DON'T LET GO OF ME, CAN I?!

BEAR. YOU. CLAN. COLORS. OR. ROYAL. DECREE?

LET'S NOT ~~SHNNNGH~~ DO THIS. IT'S UNFAIR TO ~~SHUUNH~~ YOU.

YOU'RE BIG, BUT YOU'RE ~~SHHHRRK~~ LIMITED! WE BOTH KNOW THIS WHOLE "CRUSH-IN-GIANT-HAND" THING IS YOUR ONLY--

AAAAAAAAAAAAH!



BRRUUUURRGH!

ZZZAAAK

WHAAAMM



I TRIED TO TELL YOU.

SHAZAKRIKRIKRIKRIK



BRROOOOORR!

CHASHRAAAK



ZZZAAA
CHOK



IF YOU
CAN STILL
HEAR ME...
I'M OKAY.

I WASN'T
WORRIED FOR
A MINUTE.

THERE IS A VAULT BUILT
INTO THE FAR WALL OF THE NEXT
CHAMBER. FOLLOWERS OF THE
VAMPYRIUS DRAXA BELIEVE THIS
VAULT HOLDS THE TWO KEYS
TO THE FUTURE OF THEIR
FAITH.

NOT
SURPRISINGLY,
IT IS ALSO BELIEVED
THAT CROSSING THE
CHAMBER MEANS
CERTAIN DEATH.



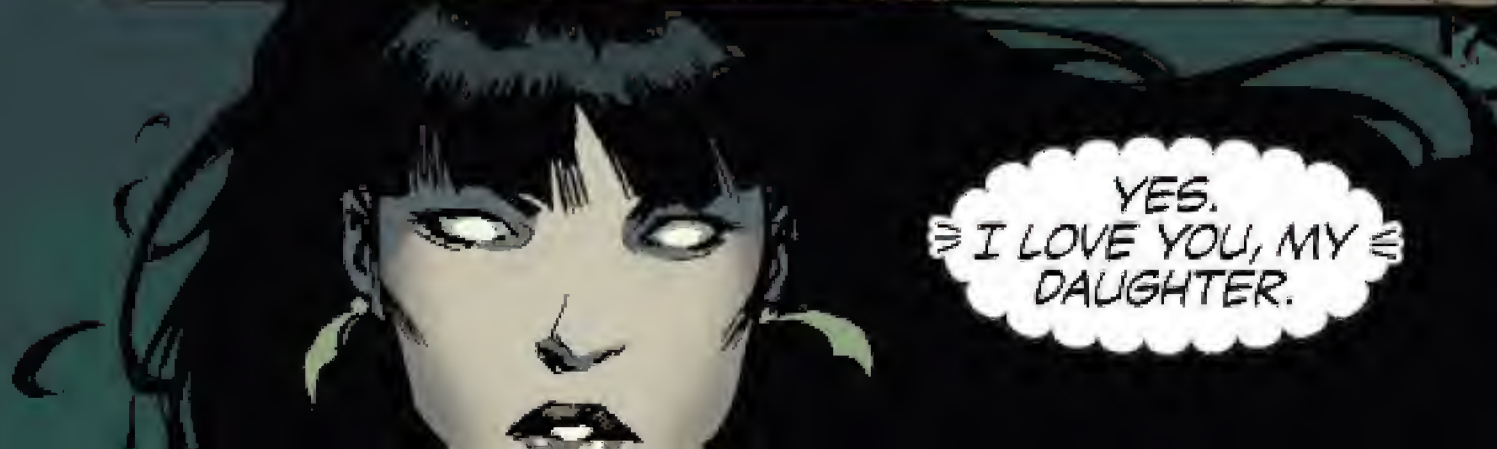
I'D BE
DISAPPOINTED
IF IT DIDN'T.
ANYTHING
ELSE?

YOU THINK THIS
IS ABOUT TESTING
YOUR DAUGHTER'S
METTLE? YOU'RE SO
VERY PREDICTABLE,
LILITH.

TELL HER TO WAIT
AT THE ENTRANCE TO
THE INTERIOR CAVERN.
YOU'LL HAVE NEW
INSTRUCTIONS FOR
HER SOON.



YES.
I LOVE YOU, MY
DAUGHTER.





I HOPE
YOU REMEMBER
WHAT I TOLD YOU
ABOUT CHOICES,
LILITH.

OH, I HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN.

IN FACT,
I'VE LEARNED
VOLUMES JUST
FROM STUDYING
THE CHOICES
YOU'VE MADE.

FASCINATING.
PLEASE, TELL
ME MORE.

YOU
WARNED ME NOT
TO UNDERESTIMATE
YOU, AND YOU WERE
JUSTIFIED IN THAT
ARROGANCE...

...BUT
OVERCONFIDENCE
LED YOU TO THE
WORST CHOICE YOU
COULD EVER MAKE:
UNDERESTIMATING
MY DAUGHTER.



VAMPIRELLA IS THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IN THIS UNIVERSE, SO YOU EITHER TELL ME WHAT'S WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE DOORS...

...OR I PUT A STOP TO THIS RIGHT NOW. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO ME, BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.



THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, LILITH.

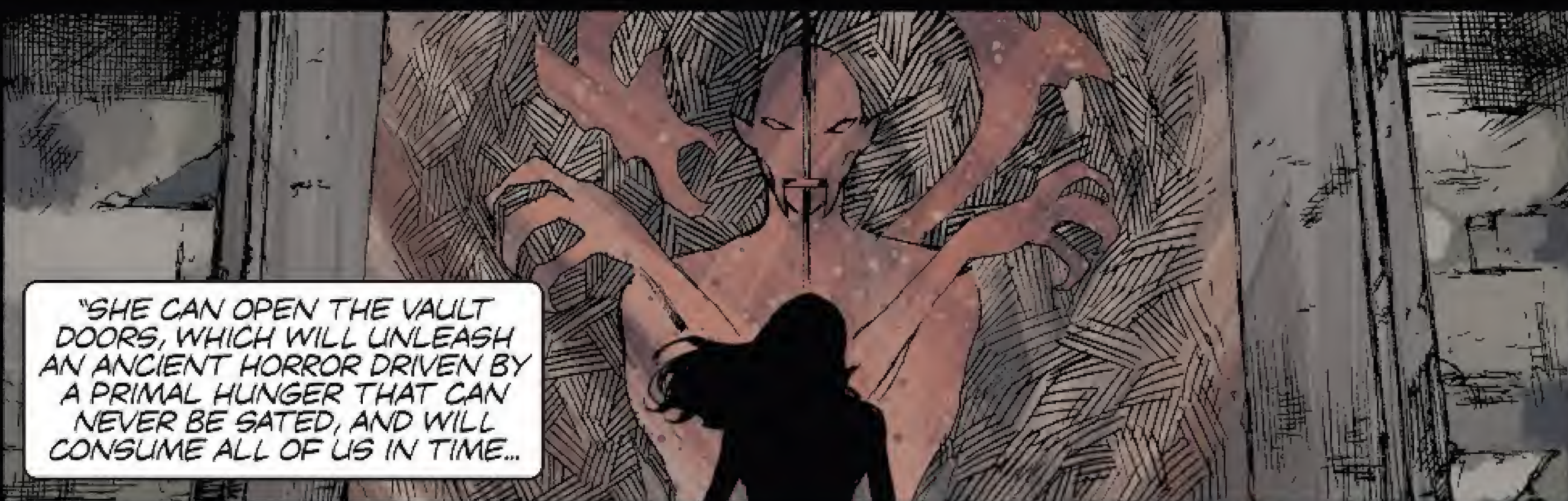
I TOLD YOU AT THE START: THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE MINE, AND THE CHOICES ARE YOURS.

NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST DIFFICULT CHOICE OF ALL: YOU HAVE TO GIVE YOUR DAUGHTER HER NEXT INSTRUCTION.

"SHE CAN TELEPORT BACK TO HER MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY, WHERE SHE WILL FIND A MASSACRE COMMITTED BY HER 'LOYAL' DRAGON'S TEMPLAR KNIGHTS.



"SHE CAN OPEN THE VAULT DOORS, WHICH WILL UNLEASH AN ANCIENT HORROR DRIVEN BY A PRIMAL HUNGER THAT CAN NEVER BE SATIATED, AND WILL CONSUME ALL OF US IN TIME..."



"...OR SHE CAN COME HERE, AND WITNESS HER MOTHER'S BETRAYAL FIRSTHAND."





I'M SURPRISED AT YOUR PRIMITIVE UNDERSTANDING OF "PAIN AND SUFFERING."



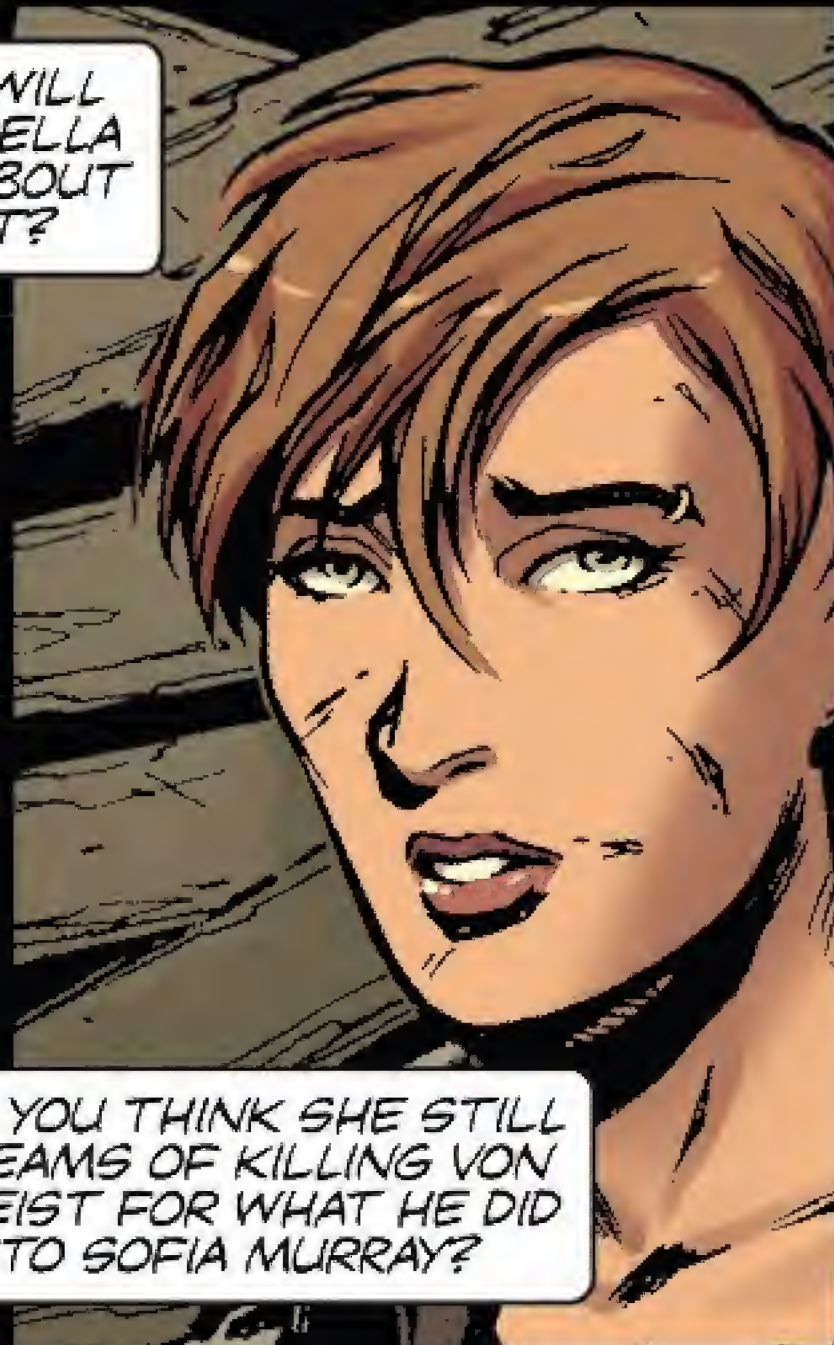
THE MOTHER OF ALL SIN, REDUCED TO A MUTE WITNESS.



"THE SPITEFUL AND PERVERTED KILLER CALLED VON KREIST HAS BEEN IN YOUR SECRET CUSTODY FOR NEARLY A YEAR."



"HOW WILL VAMPIRELLA FEEL ABOUT THAT?"



"DO YOU THINK SHE STILL DREAMS OF KILLING VON KREIST FOR WHAT HE DID TO SOFIA MURRAY?"



"IF SHE DOESN'T COME HERE, SHE COULD DIE. IS IT A BETTER FATE THAN SEEING HER GRAND VISION REDUCED TO A BLOODBATH?"



THE CHOICE IS YOURS, MOTHER OF SIN.



TELL ME HOW YOU WANT TO MAKE VAMPIRELLA SUFFER.



WHAT AREN'T
YOU TELLING
ME? THIS DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE!

YOU'LL--
I HOPE YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND
LATER, BUT RIGHT
NOW, YOU NEED TO
DO EXACTLY AS I
TELL YOU. PLEASE,
VAMPIRELLA.

WHY DID
I COME HERE IN
THE FIRST PLACE,
THEN? I'M JUST
LEAVING? AND
GOING WHERE?

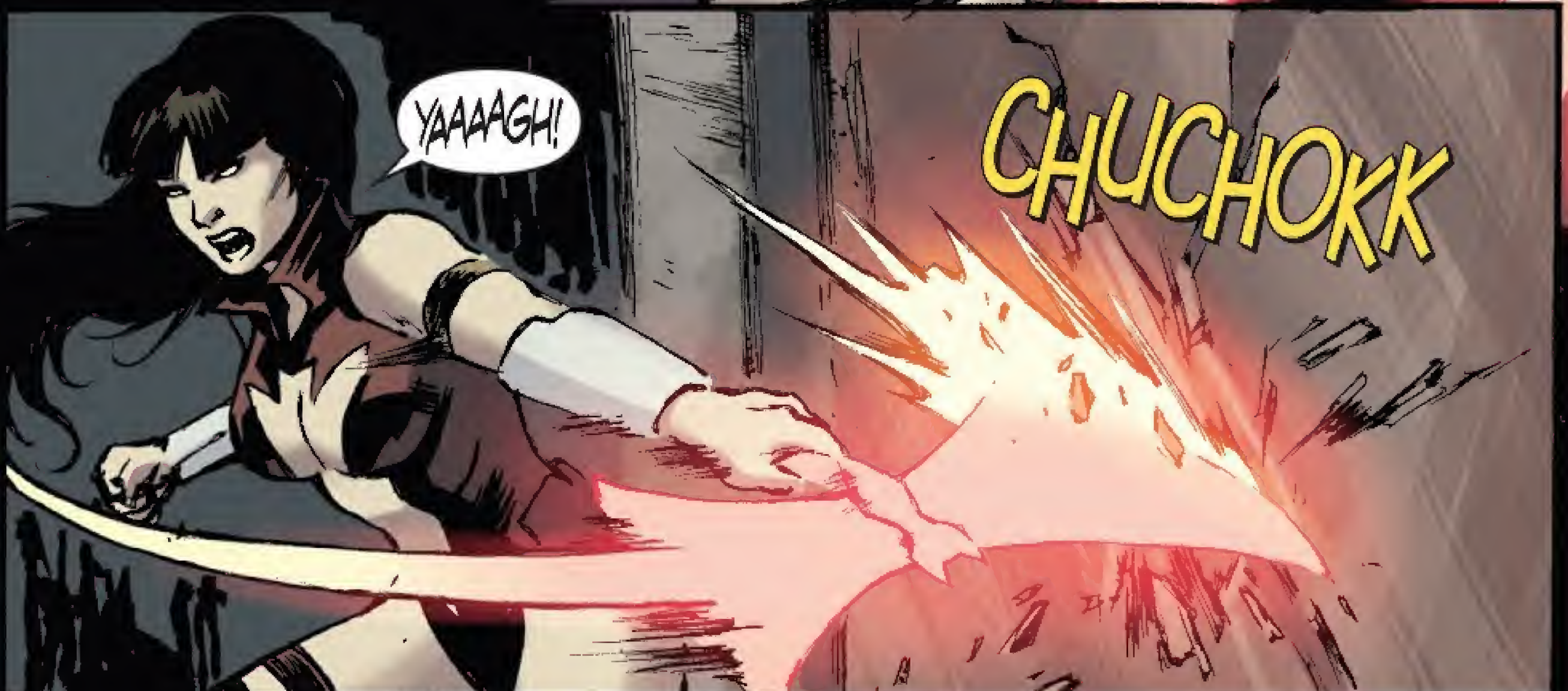
WHAT
THE HELL IS
GOING ON,
LILITH?

GIVEN
OUR HISTORY,
IT'S NOTHING THAT
SHOULD COME AS
A SURPRISE
TO YOU...

...AND
I'M VERY
SORRY FOR
THAT.

ZZZZKKKKK

STAND BY TO
TELEPORT.



YAAAAGH!

CHUCHOKK





DYNAMITE
38

VAMPIRELLA®

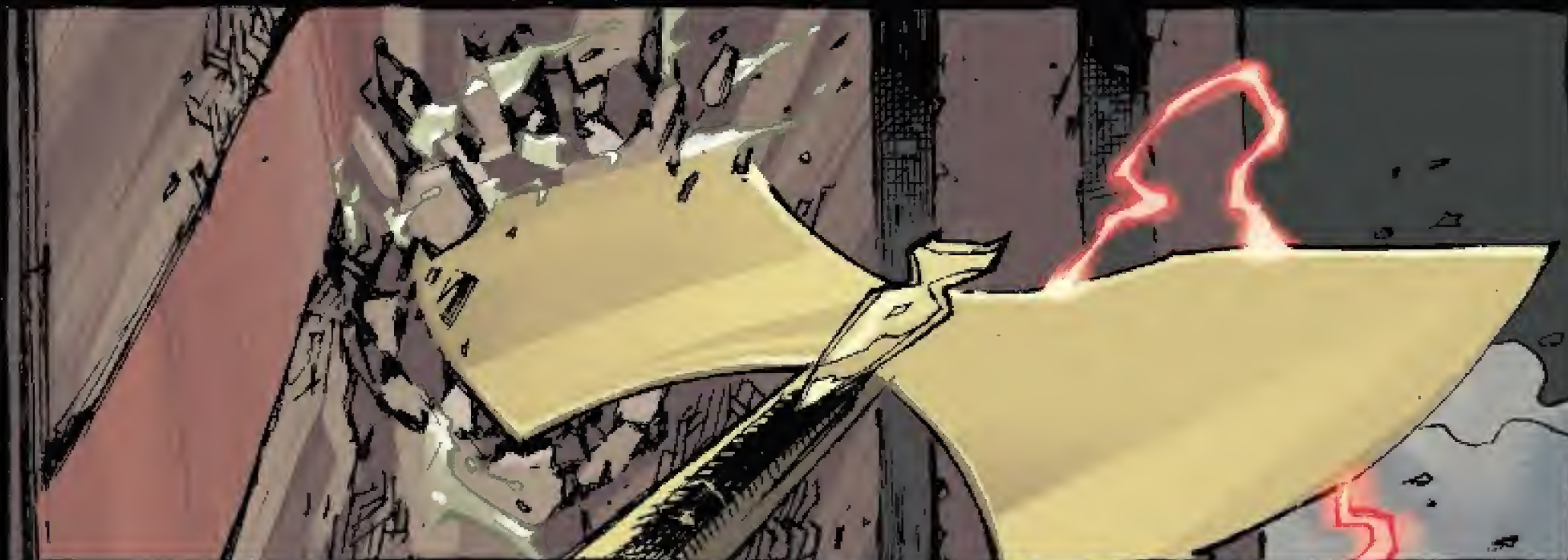


DYNAMITE
38

VAMPIRELLA®



THE



VAMPIRELLA



S T O R Y







PLEASE LISTEN, VAMPIRELLA.

I KEPT THIS PLACE A SECRET FROM YOU, AND I WILL ANSWER FOR IT...

...IF WE SURVIVE.

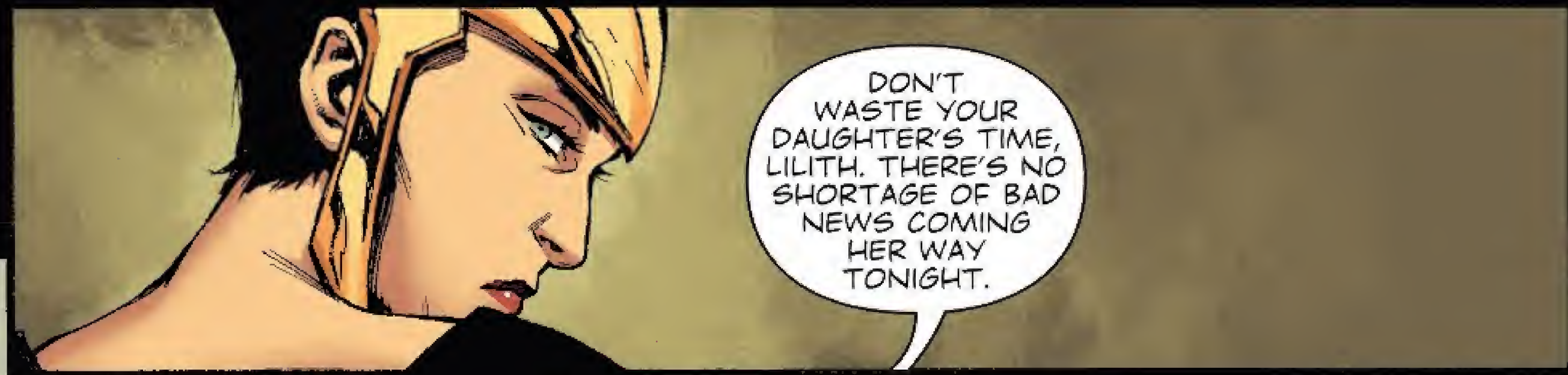
SURVIVE WHAT, LILITH?



SOME OF MY WORST ENEMIES ARE LOCKED UP IN A SECRET PRISON, AND MY MOTHER KNEW ALL ABOUT IT.



ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT ISN'T THE BAD NEWS?!



DON'T WASTE YOUR DAUGHTER'S TIME, LILITH. THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF BAD NEWS COMING HER WAY TONIGHT.



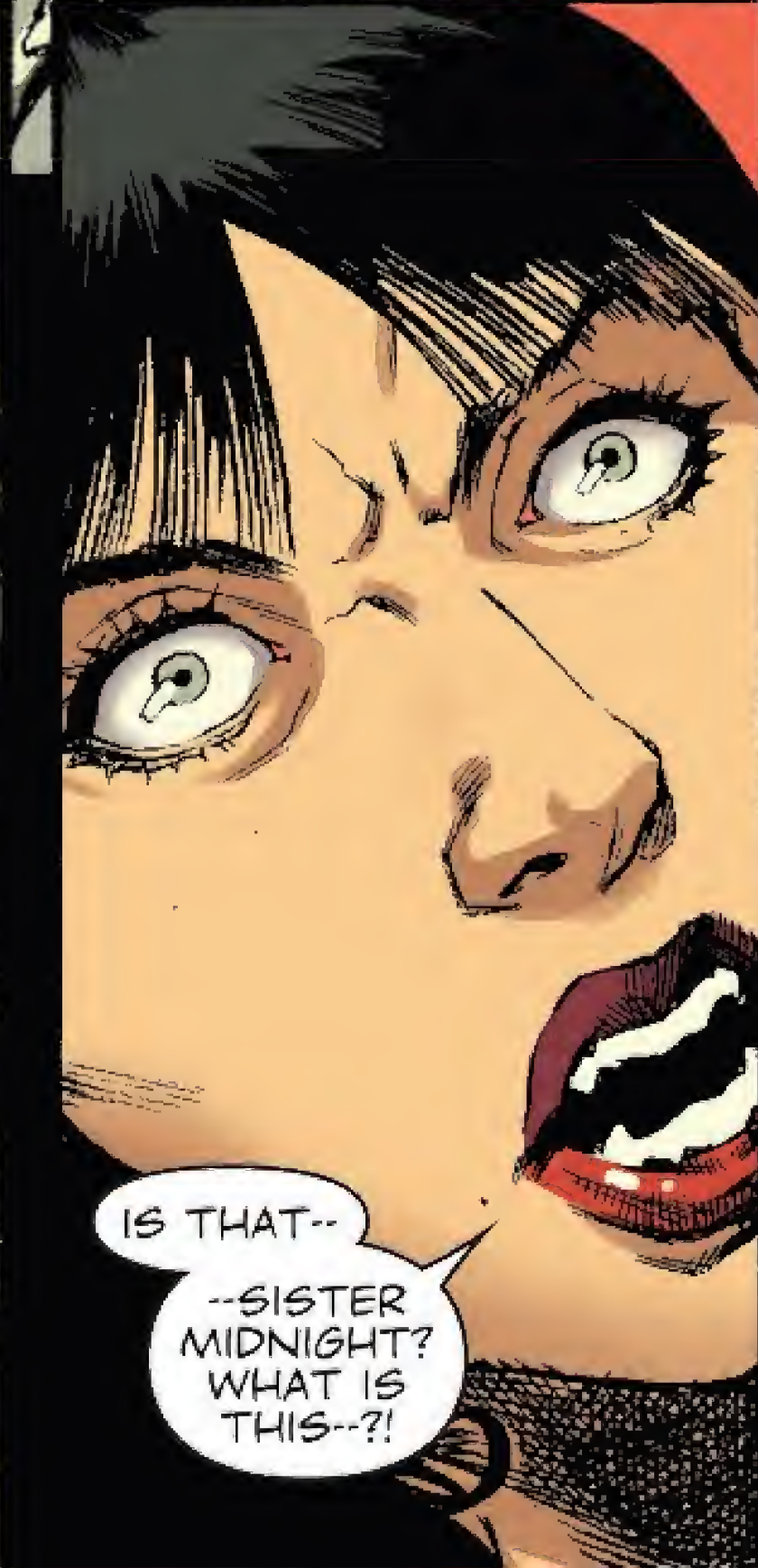
FAR BETTER TO LET IT DROWN HER IN SLOW WAVES, DON'T YOU THINK?



YOU LOOK POSITIVELY HORRIFIED, BAZRYS.

AM I SO GROTESQUE THAT EVEN A HELLBOUND GOAT-MAN IS SICKENED BY ME?

I DON'T EVEN SEE YOU. I'M REACTING TO THE STINK COMING FROM YOUR ROTTEN SOUL.



IS THAT--

--SISTER MIDNIGHT? WHAT IS THIS--?!



TERRIFYING, ISN'T IT? YOU CLEAVED MY HEAD RIGHT OFF MY BODY! HELD YOUR PRIZE UP PROUDLY WHEN YOU TOOK CONTROL OF MY DRAGON'S TEMPLAR KNIGHTS!

AND YET...HMMM. "AND YET."

THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOUR FAILURES. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR MOTHER'S CHOICES...

...AND THE CONSEQUENCES THEY DEMAND.



OPEN THE CELLS!

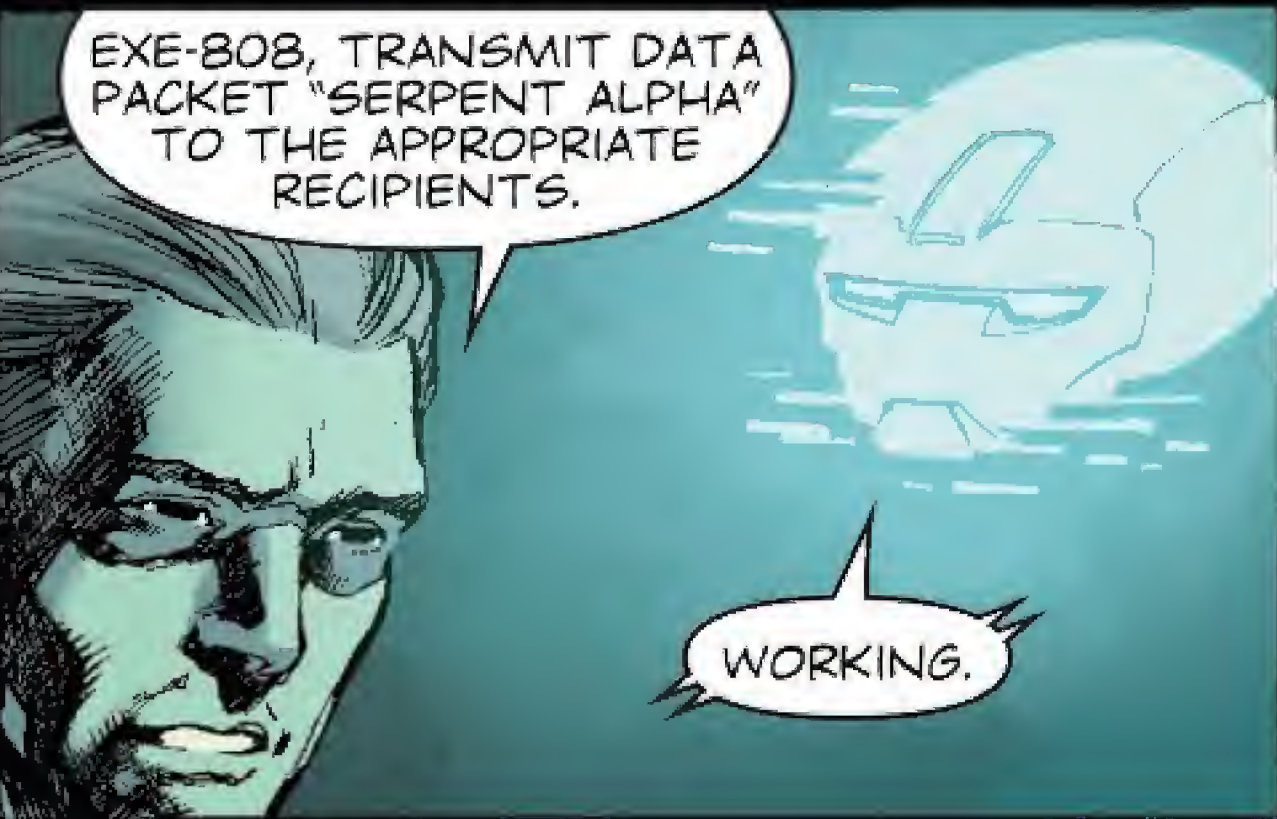
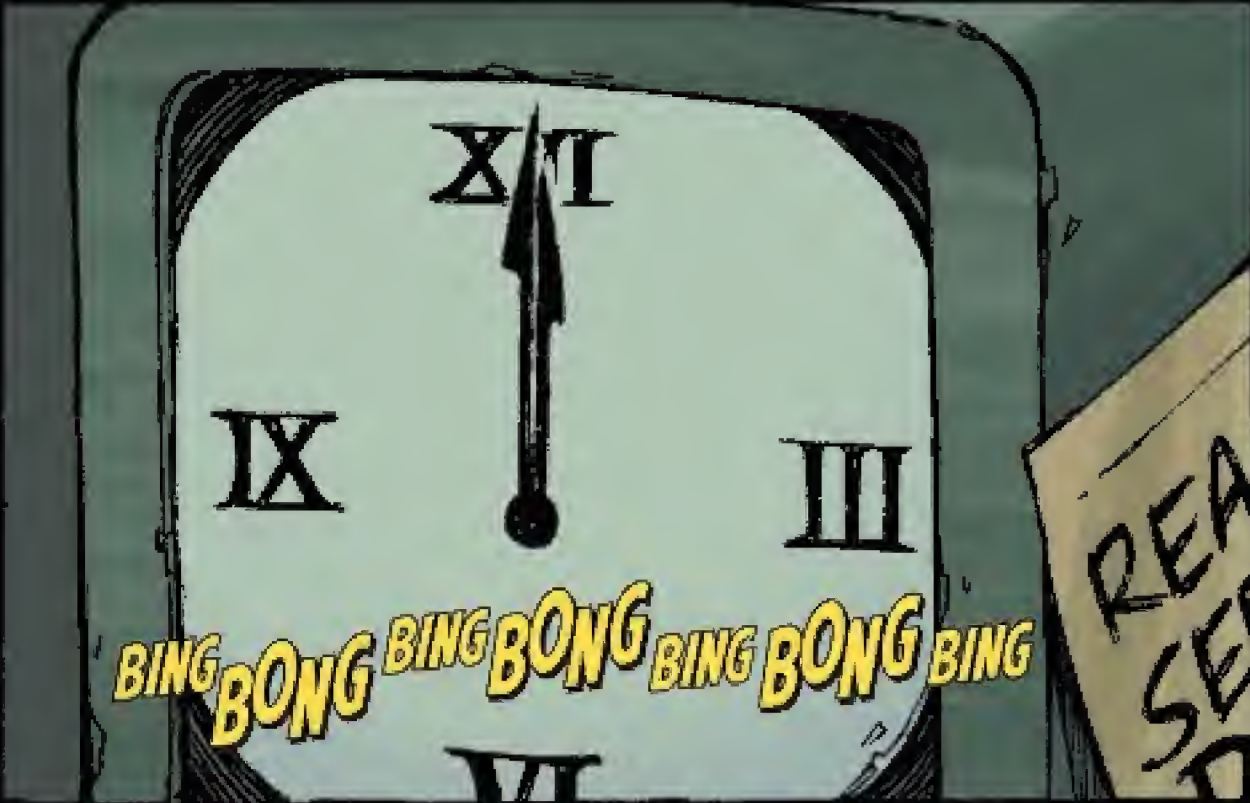
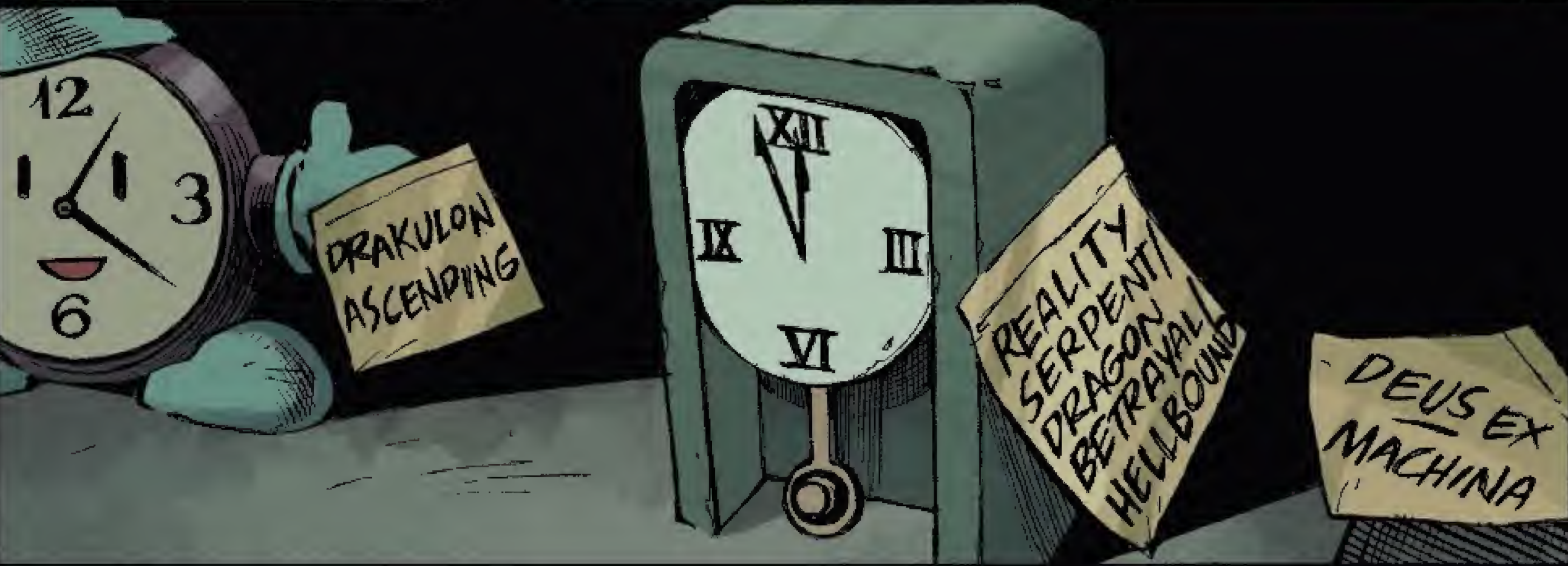
ONE DOWN! WHO'S NEXT?!

WHOCK

YOU SICK ANIMALS--!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT THEM IN CAGES.

THIRTEEN MINUTES EARLIER



VAMPIRELLA'S MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY
COLORADO ROCKIES
NOW

THIS IS HOPPER.
IF YOU'RE VIEWING
THIS DATA-FEED, THE
"SERPENT ALPHA"
PROTOCOL HAS BEEN
ENACTED.

I'M ALSO
VERY LIKELY DEAD,
OR TRAPPED IN AN
ERRANT CHRONAL
PASSAGE. EITHER
WAY, YOU CAN'T
SAVE ME. PLEASE
DON'T TRY.

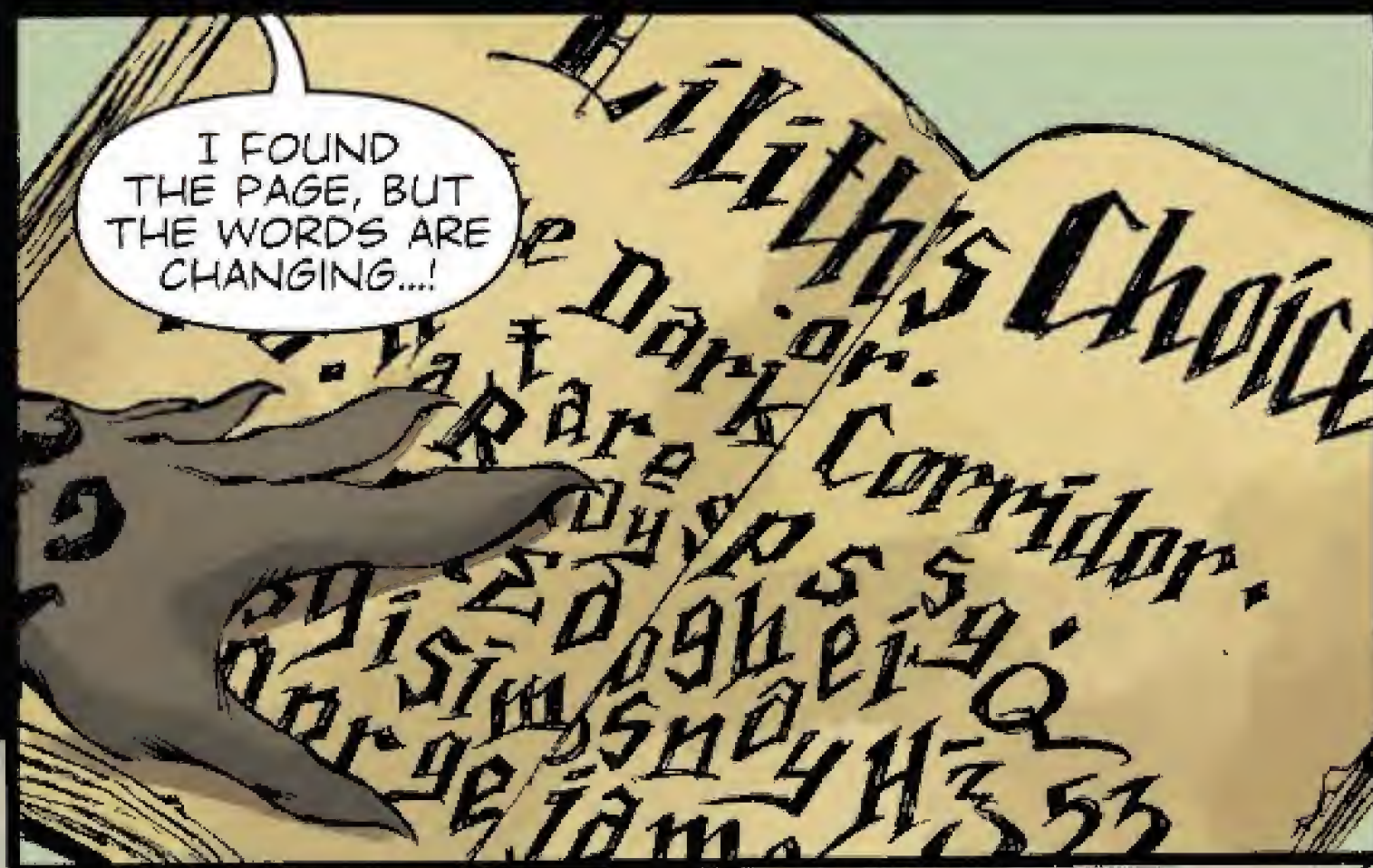
OPEN ANY
VERIFIED COPY
OF THE CRIMSON
CHRONICLES TO
PAGE SEVEN-
SIXTY-ONE.

I'M SORRY I
COULDN'T TELL
YOU ANYTHING
SOONER, BUT
TIMESTREAMS
CAN BE VERY
FICKLE.

IF A SINGLE
PERSON STARTS
DOWN THE PATH OF
SELF-FULFILLING
PROPHECY,
THINGS CAN GET
COMPLICATED.



I FOUND
THE PAGE, BUT
THE WORDS ARE
CHANGING...



THE FUTURE'S
STILL BEING
WRITTEN.
THAT'S WHY
THIS RECORDING
HAS SEVERAL
BRANCHES BUILT
INTO IT. I CAN
STILL HELP
YOU.

YOU
NEED TO START
EVACUATING THE
BASE, BEFORE THE
DRAGON'S TEMPLAR
KNIGHTS BUTCHER
EVERYONE...

...AND IF YOU HAVE A
PREFERRED DEITY, IT
PROBABLY COULDN'T
HURT TO PRAY.





YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT "STAR TREK," ADAM?

I... WHAT?

I KNOW A LITTLE, MAYBE. WHY?

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT "MY WILL" A LOT, AND THEY USUALLY HAVE IT WRONG. THIS ISN'T MY WILL.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG WITH MY OWN VERSION OF THE PRIME DIRECTIVE.

SOME EVENTS HAVE TO UNFOLD WITHOUT INTERFERENCE...

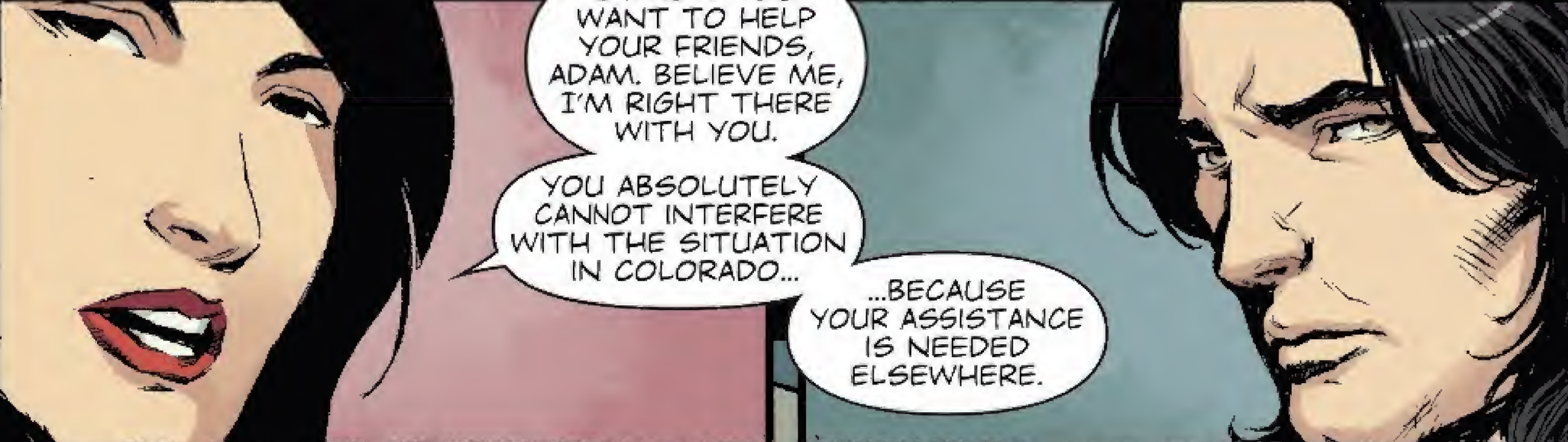


...EVEN WHEN THOSE EVENTS ARE UGLY AND MINDLESS.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS, ADAM. BELIEVE ME, I'M RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.

YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THE SITUATION IN COLORADO...

...BECAUSE YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE.



THE CHAMBER IS CLEAR. FORWARD.





OPEN YOUR
EYES,
VAMPIRELLA.



YOU
DEFINITELY DON'T
WANT TO MISS
WHAT HAPPENS
NEXT.

MMMNNGH.
LET GO.

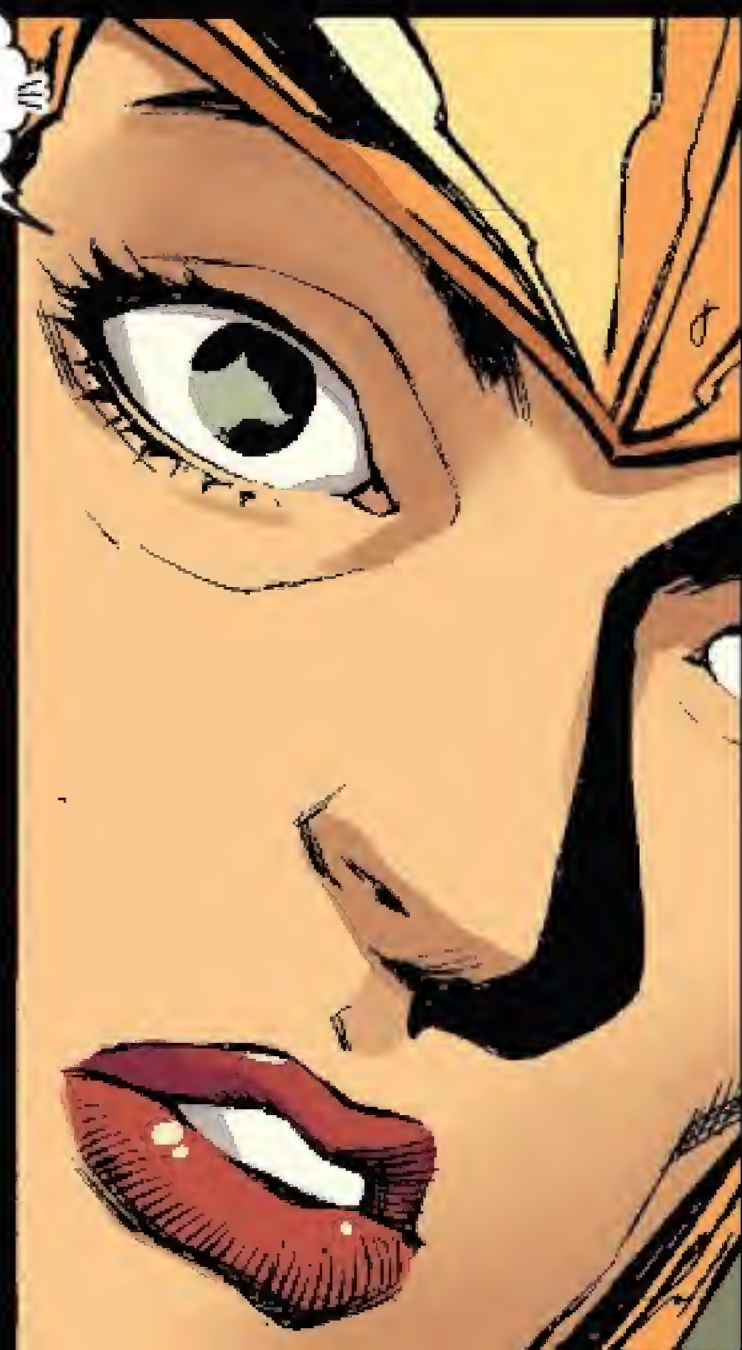
I SAID
TAKE YOUR
FILTHY
HANDS OFF
ME!




YOU'RE
NOT IN CHARGE
ANYMORE. TRUTH
BE TOLD, YOU'RE
NOT IN CHARGE
OF ANYTHING
NOW.

MOTHER.
PROTECT?

NO.
STAY
NOW.






YOU
JUST WAIT
NNNGH!
AND SEE!

NEXT TIME,
I WON'T LEAVE
MMRRRGH!
ANY PART OF
YOU-GGRRGH-BIG
ENOUGH TO
RESURRECT!

YOU POOR,
IDIOT CHILD.
THAT'S BEEN
YOUR PROBLEM ALL
ALONG: YOU HAVE
NO PERSPECTIVE
ON THE BIG
PICTURE.

YOU WERE
SO FOCUSED ON
PLAYING "MONSTER
MOTHER TERESA"
THAT YOU BECAME
MYOPIC. YOU MISSED
EVERYTHING
AROUND YOU!



I BROUGHT
AN INVADING
ARMY TO YOUR
DOORSTEP, AND
THEN TALKED YOU
INTO BELIEVING IT
WAS A TROJAN
HORSE!

WHAT DID
YOU THINK
WOULD--

--EXCUSE
ME.

AH-AH-
AAAH...



BAZRYS--!



YOU WILL NOT HURT HIM--
--NO!

HYUUUUUUUUH!

VZAK

LET THAT BE THE LAST DISRUPTION FROM YOU...

KLATTER

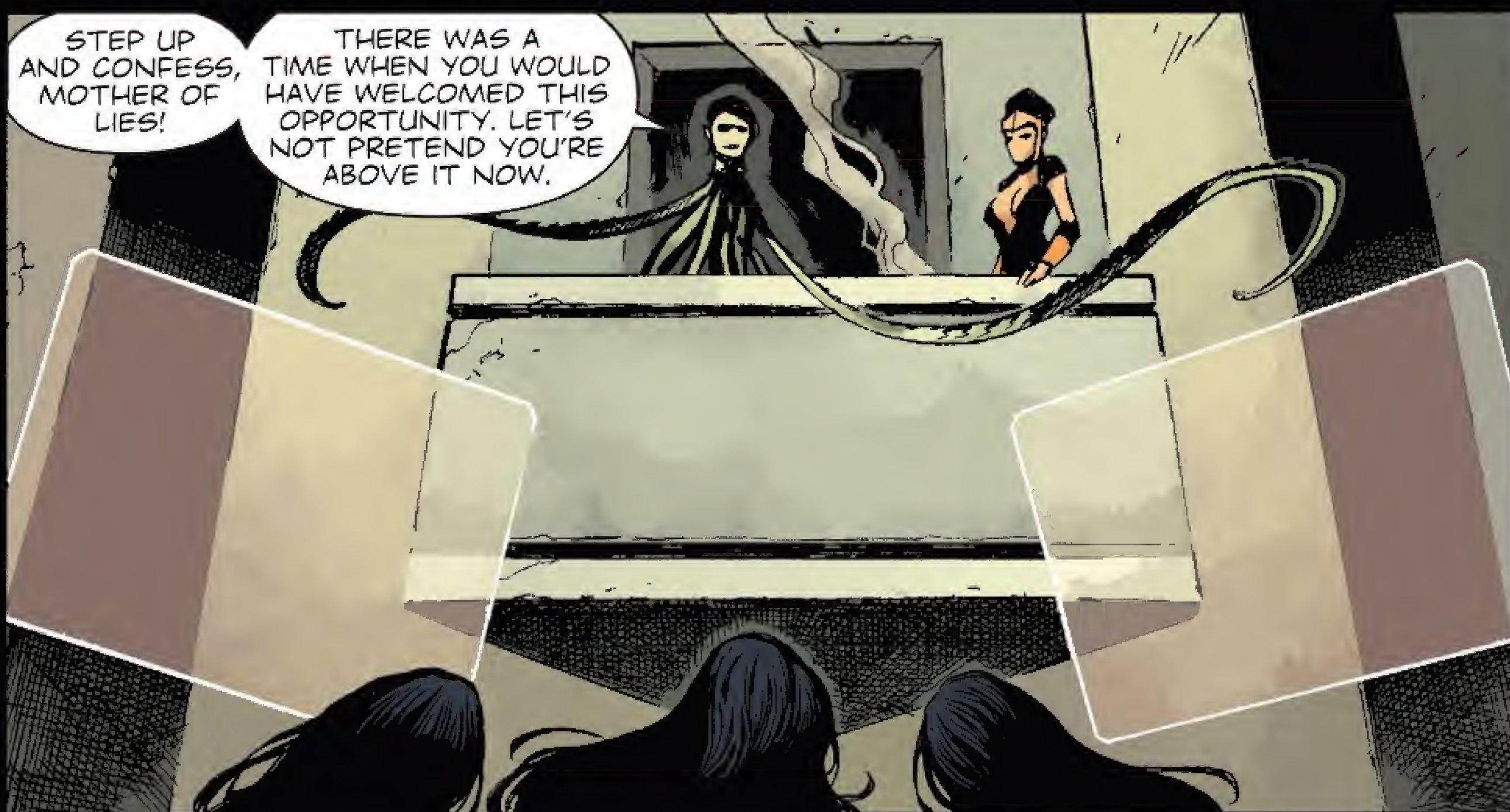
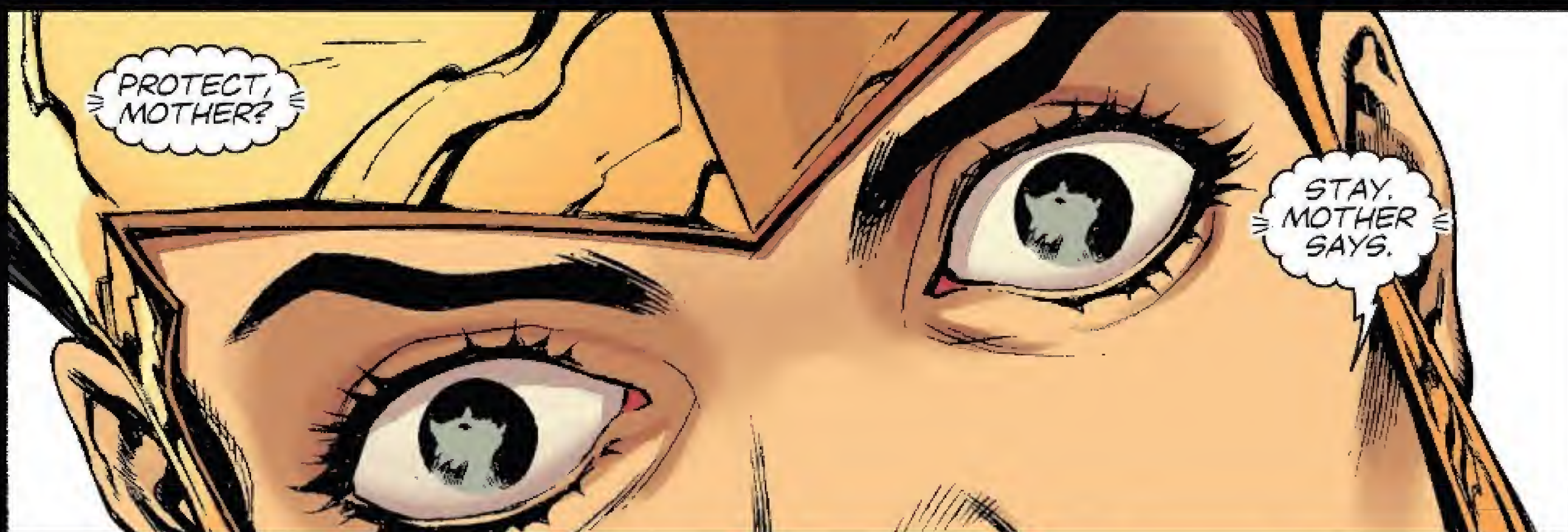
LET THAT BE THE LAST OF YOUR FIRE, YOU TIRED OLD SOW...

...OR WE'LL TEAR YOUR LITTLE GIRL INTO PIECES RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.



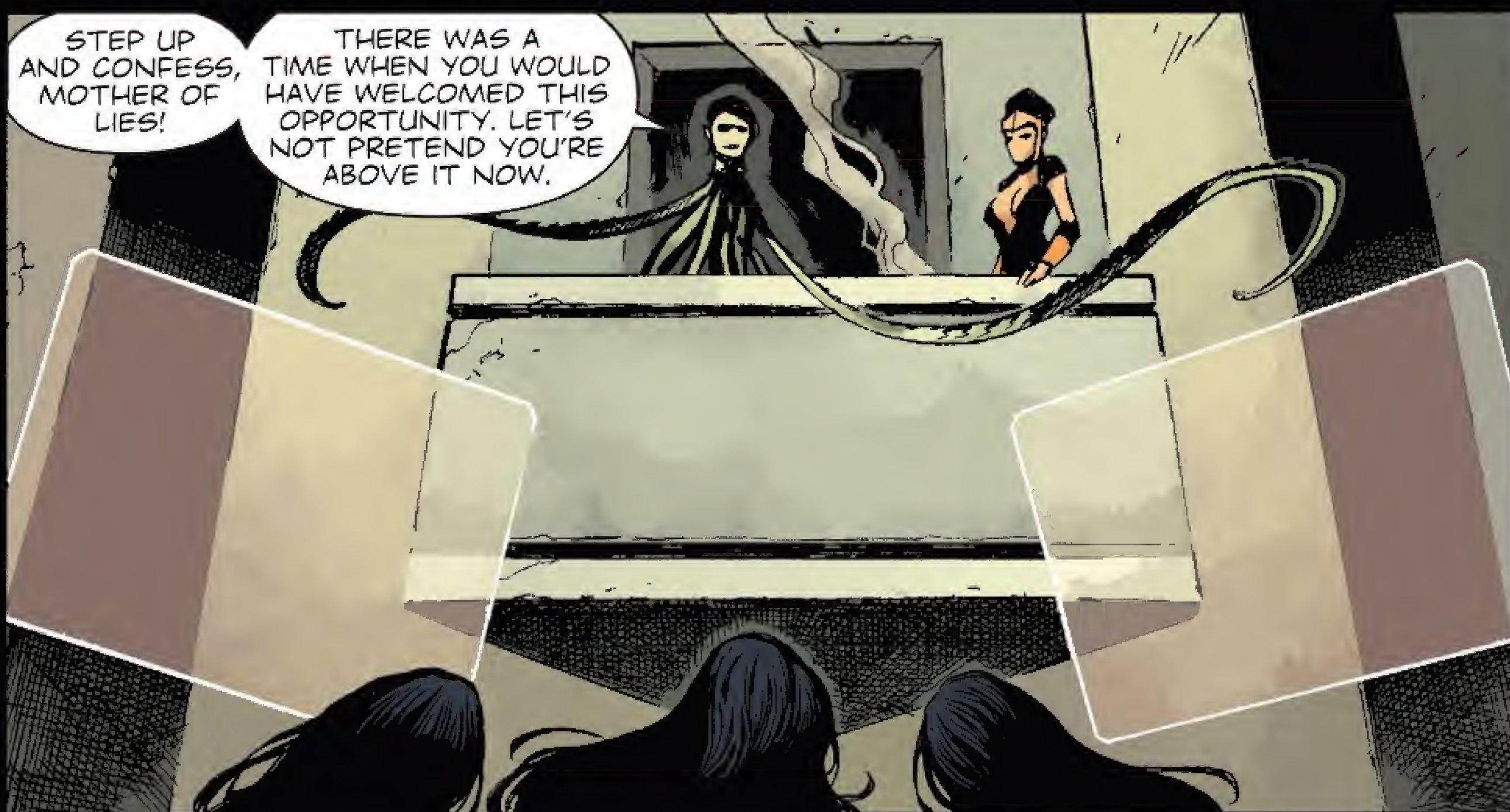
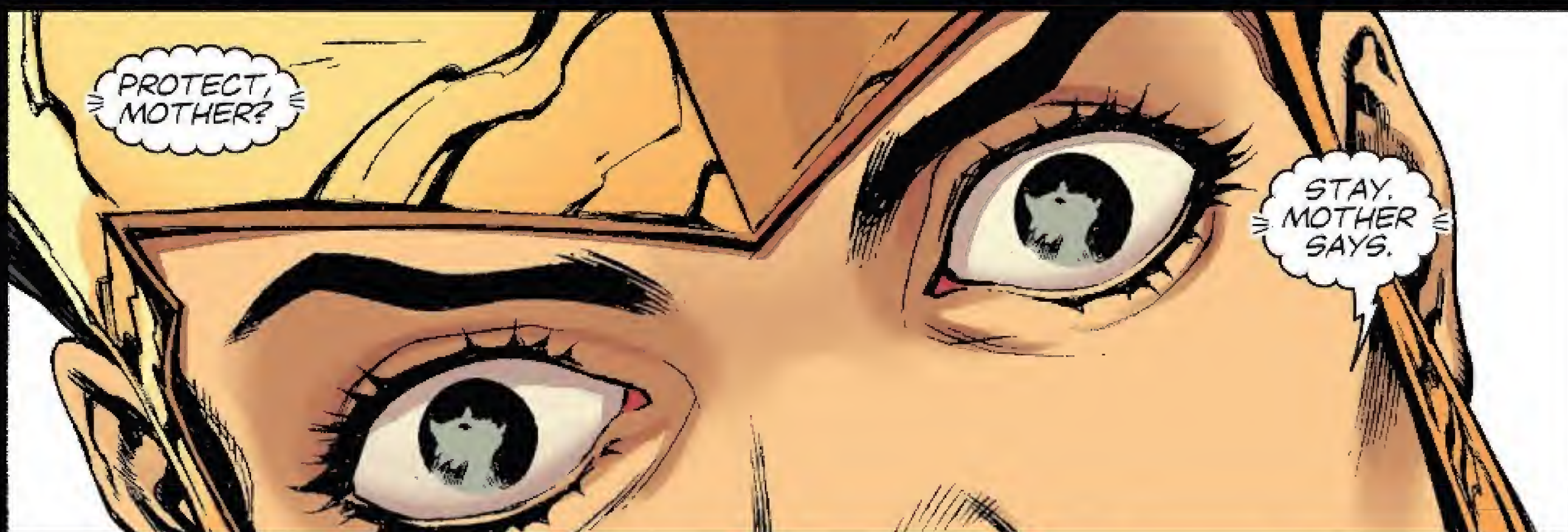


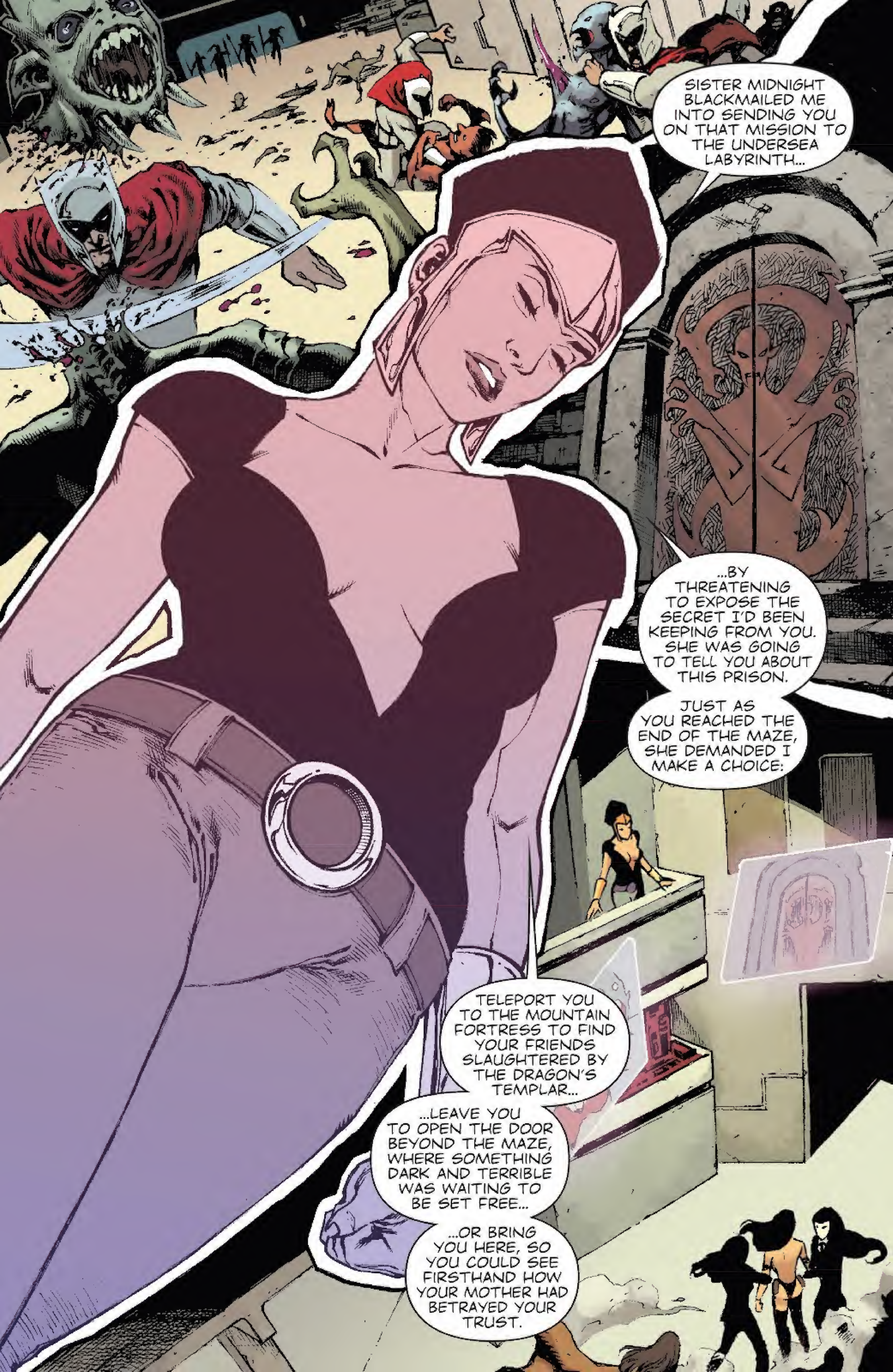
I THINK LILITH HAS MORE THAN EARNED THE PRIVILEGE OF TEARING HER DAUGHTER APART PERSONALLY.





I THINK LILITH HAS MORE THAN EARNED THE PRIVILEGE OF TEARING HER DAUGHTER APART PERSONALLY.





SISTER MIDNIGHT
BLACKMAILED ME
INTO SENDING YOU
ON THAT MISSION TO
THE UNDERSEA
LABYRINTH...

...BY
THREATENING
TO EXPOSE THE
SECRET I'D BEEN
KEEPING FROM YOU.
SHE WAS GOING
TO TELL YOU ABOUT
THIS PRISON.

JUST AS
YOU REACHED THE
END OF THE MAZE,
SHE DEMANDED I
MAKE A CHOICE:

TELEPORT YOU
TO THE MOUNTAIN
FORTRESS TO FIND
YOUR FRIENDS
SLAUGHTERED BY
THE DRAGON'S
TEMPLAR...

...LEAVE YOU
TO OPEN THE DOOR
BEYOND THE MAZE,
WHERE SOMETHING
DARK AND TERRIBLE
WAS WAITING TO
BE SET FREE...

...OR BRING
YOU HERE, SO
YOU COULD SEE
FIRSTHAND HOW
YOUR MOTHER HAD
BETRAYED YOUR
TRUST.





I WASN'T WORKING AGAINST YOU. MY INTENTIONS WERE GOOD, I SWEAR...

...AND IN THE END, I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I COULDN'T LEAVE MY DAUGHTER TO FACE THE UNKNOWN WITHOUT ME BESIDE HER.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I CRACKED THE SEAL ON THAT LABYRINTH DOOR JUST BEFORE YOU TELEPORTED ME HERE.

THE DARK AND TERRIBLE THING IS OUT! MIDNIGHT'S PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY, AND YOU WERE SUCKERED RIGHT INTO IT!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE FOOL FOR A CHANGE, LILITH?!



YOU'RE BOTH BIGGER FOOLS THAN YOU REALIZE, BUT THAT PART OF THE STORY WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S JUST DYING TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU, VAMPIRELLA.

THERE'S ONE DOOR IN THIS PRISON THAT WE HAVE YET TO OPEN; ONE VERY SPECIAL RESIDENT, ALWAYS KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE RIFF-RAFF...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT? THERE'S NO ONE ELSE BEING HELD HERE!



STOP TALKING.

WHY WOULD YOU EVEN BOTHER TO LIE AT THIS POINT?



LOOK
AT YOU,
SO EASILY
BROKEN.

YOU
SHOULD BE
ASHAMED OF
YOURSELF.



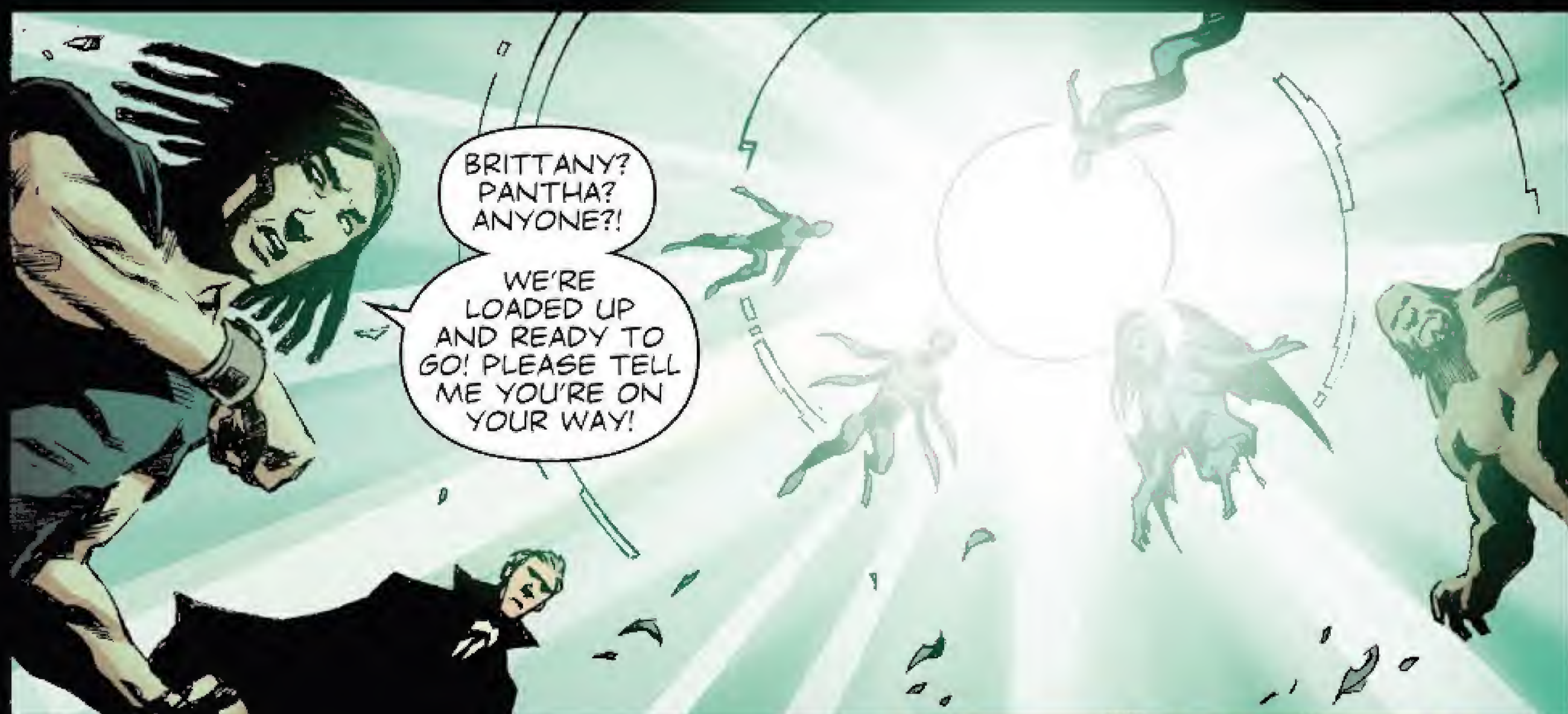
I'M
ENJOYING THIS.
YOU SEE, I KNOW
WHAT'S WAITING
BENEATH THE
FLOOR...



...AND IT'S
GOING TO
BREAK YOU
ALL OVER
AGAIN.

OPEN THE
HATCH.







BRITTANY,
NO! I'M NOT
LEAVING YOU TO
FIGHT THEM
ALONE!



I'M
NOT FIGHTING
ANYMORE...



BEGIN
AUTO-DESTRUCT
SEQUENCE.

...I'M
WINNING.



DEET DEET DEET DEET DEET DEET



WE
HAVE TO
GO!



CHAKA

THOOOOOOOM





ALL THREE ELEMENTS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, CORRECT?



YES-- BELL, BOOK, AND CANDLE. WE POSSESS THE GRIMOIRE.

THE BELL AND THE CANDLE ARE HIDDEN AWAY TOGETHER.



THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER TIMELY RESCUE, CONJURESS. I'VE ALWAYS FELT SAFER UP HERE, HONESTLY--



VAN HELSING...? WISH HIM LUCK, AND SAFE TRAVELS...



...FOR HIS MISSION IS THE MOST VITAL OF ALL.



NOT ONE OF US IS SAFE, MORDECAI.

THERE IS LITERALLY NOTHING THAT CAN SAVE US FROM OUR COLLECTIVE UNDOING TODAY.

GO TO YOUR WARDS, AND TELL THEM TO MAKE PEACE WITH THEMSELVES WHILE THEY CAN.





PAY THE
PROPER
RESPECT.



STAND UP.
LET ME LOOK
UPON YOU,
VAMPIRELLA.

SUCH A
RARE BEAUTY,
BUT SPOILED
TO PITY BY
THE CURSE OF
VIRTUE.



TAKE
A GOOD
LAST LOOK,
YOU SON OF
A BITCH--



WHOOOM



HUUNNNH!



YOU'RE
JUST A SHELL
THAT I SHOULD
HAVE CRACKED
OPEN LONG
AGO.



BLIND
AS A BAT.
YOU'LL NEVER
CHANGE.





TELL ME
HOW YOU
DID IT.

HOW ARE
YOU HERE
AGAIN?

HOW THE
HELL ARE
YOU STILL
ALIVE?!



HOW DO I LIVE?
I AM DRACULA,
THE UNDYI--

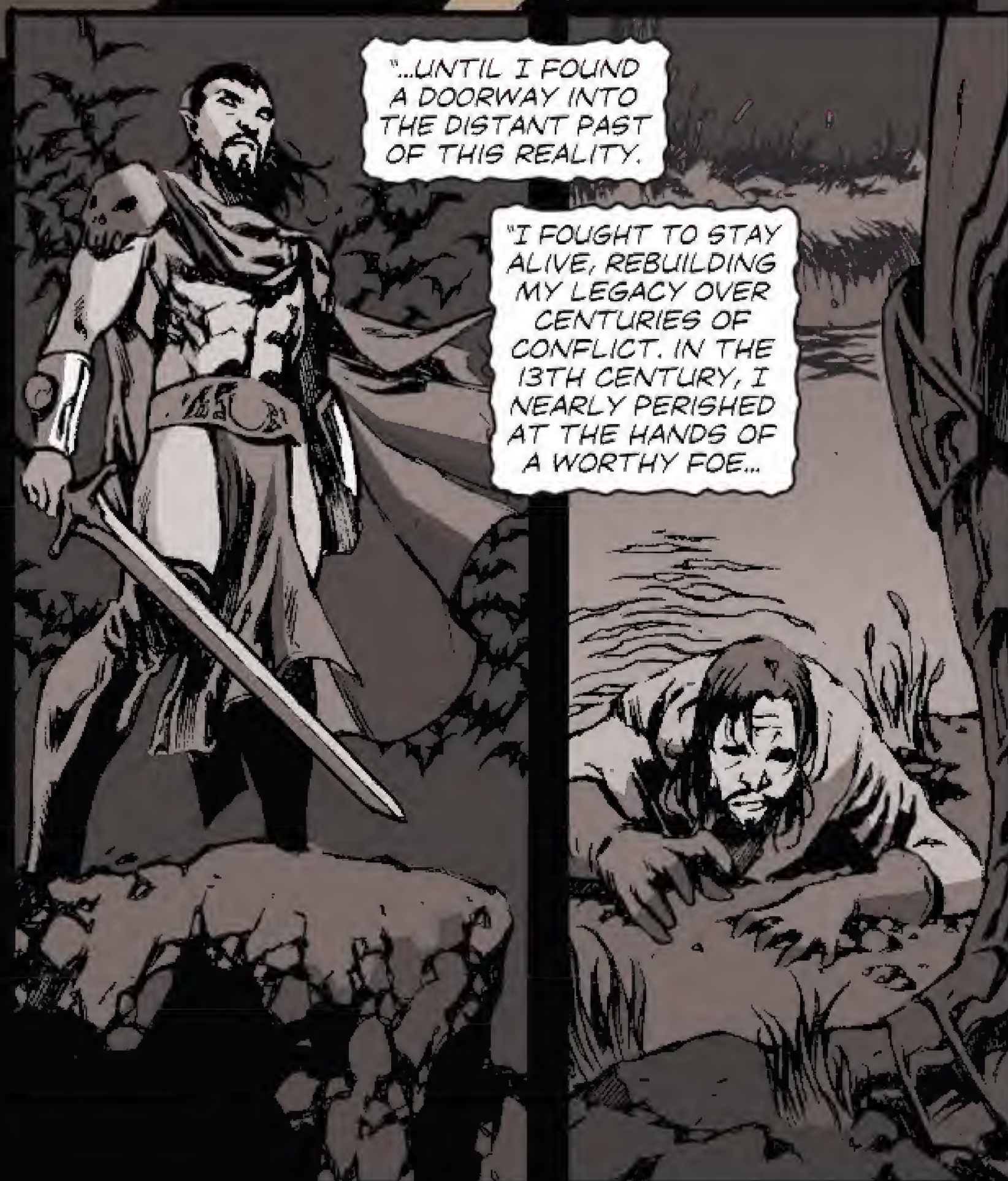
BULLSHIT.

WE EXORCISED
YOU FROM THIS
PHYSICAL DIMENSION.
HOW DID YOU GET
BACK?



YOU
DROVE ME
OUT. THAT
WAS YOUR
VICTORY.

I SWAM
THROUGH
NOTHINGNESS,
TRAPPED FOR
SO LONG IN
THE VOID...



"...UNTIL I FOUND
A DOORWAY INTO
THE DISTANT PAST
OF THIS REALITY.

"I FOUGHT TO STAY
ALIVE, REBUILDING
MY LEGACY OVER
CENTURIES OF
CONFLICT. IN THE
13TH CENTURY, I
NEARLY PERISHED
AT THE HANDS OF
A WORTHY FOE...

...BUT IN MY DARKEST
HOUR, FATE DELIVERED
UNTO ME A BLACK
ANGEL OF REDEMPTION.
HER NAME WAS
BEATRICE."





IF I AM
YOUR ANGEL,
LORD
DRACULA...

...THEN
YOU ARE
MY HOLY
FATHER
GOD.

YOU SEE,
LILITH?

A PARENT
DOES NOT BETRAY
THEIR CHILD. THAT
IS THE BEHAVIOR
OF MONSTERS.



SO, YOU SPENT
TWO THOUSAND
YEARS REBUILDING
YOUR LEGACY...
FOR WHAT?

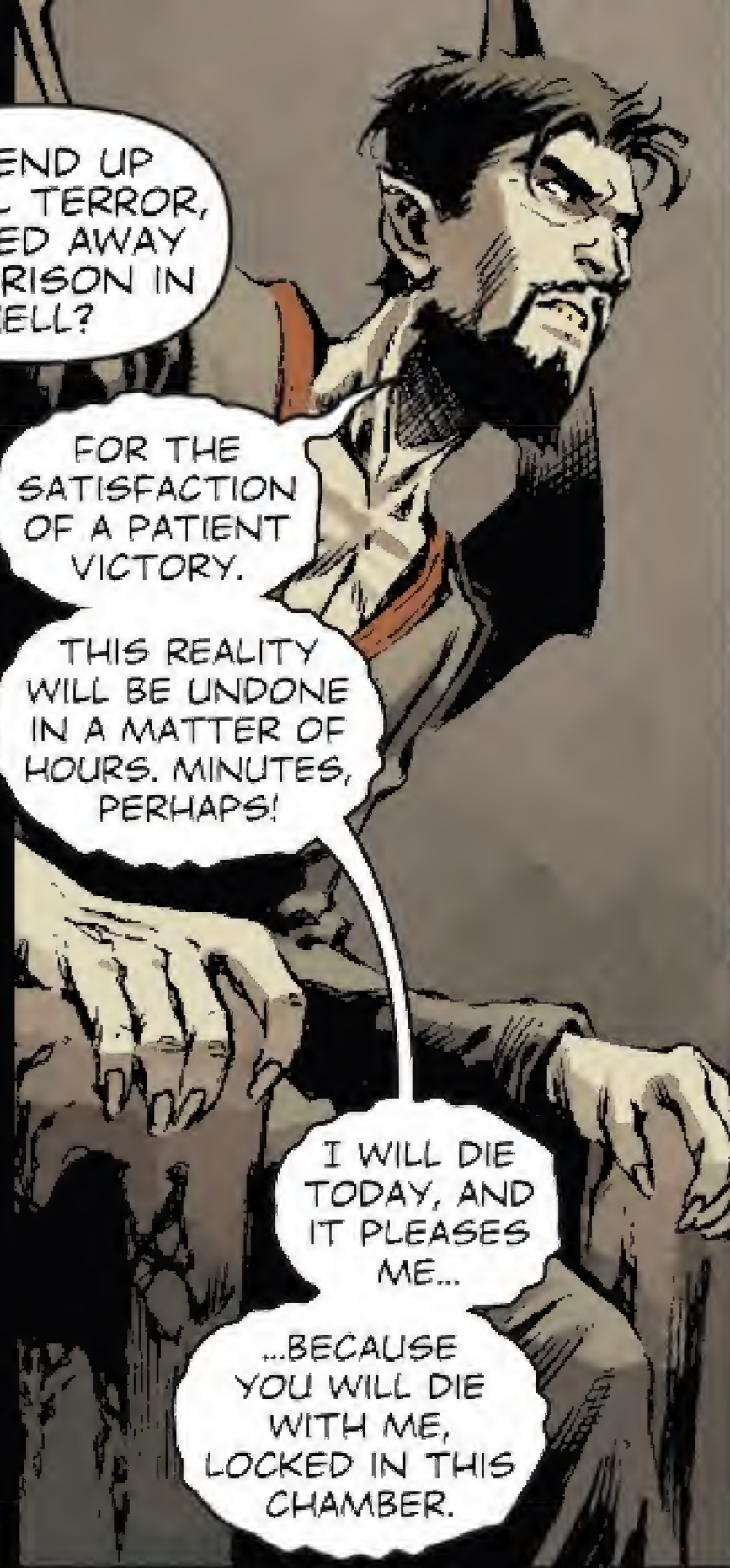
TO END UP
A FRAIL TERROR,
LOCKED AWAY
IN A PRISON IN
HELL?

FOR THE
SATISFACTION
OF A PATIENT
VICTORY.

THIS REALITY
WILL BE UNDONE
IN A MATTER OF
HOURS. MINUTES,
PERHAPS!

I WILL DIE
TODAY, AND
IT PLEASES
ME...

...BECAUSE
YOU WILL DIE
WITH ME,
LOCKED IN THIS
CHAMBER.



"THE CREATURE YOU
UNWITTINGLY RELEASED IS
MORE COSMIC MECHANISM
THAN BEAST. IT FEEDS UPON
THE FABRIC OF REALITY, AND
IT CANNOT BE STOPPED."



SISTER
MIDNIGHT!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING--









"HOPPER?
ARE YOU
STILL WITH
ME?"

"I'M HERE,
LILITH. IS
EVERYTHING
IN PLACE?"

I JUST NEED
A MOMENT.

VAMPIRELLA!

KRAK

WE DON'T
HAVE ANY TIME
LEFT. PLEASE
LISTEN TO ME,
DAUGHTER.


I AM TOLD
THAT YOU MAY
NOT REMEMBER
ANYTHING FROM
THIS EXISTENCE,
AS YOU PASS
INTO THE
NEXT...

...BUT I
HOPE THAT
YOU'LL REMEMBER
A WOMAN WHO
TRIED TO BE
BETTER. MAYBE IT
WAS TOO LATE,
BUT...I TRIED.

COME WITH
ME. PLEASE,
COME WITH
ME--!

SOMEONE
HAS TO SEE
YOU SAFE HOME.
IT SHOULD
BE ME.

IT SHOULD
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN ME.

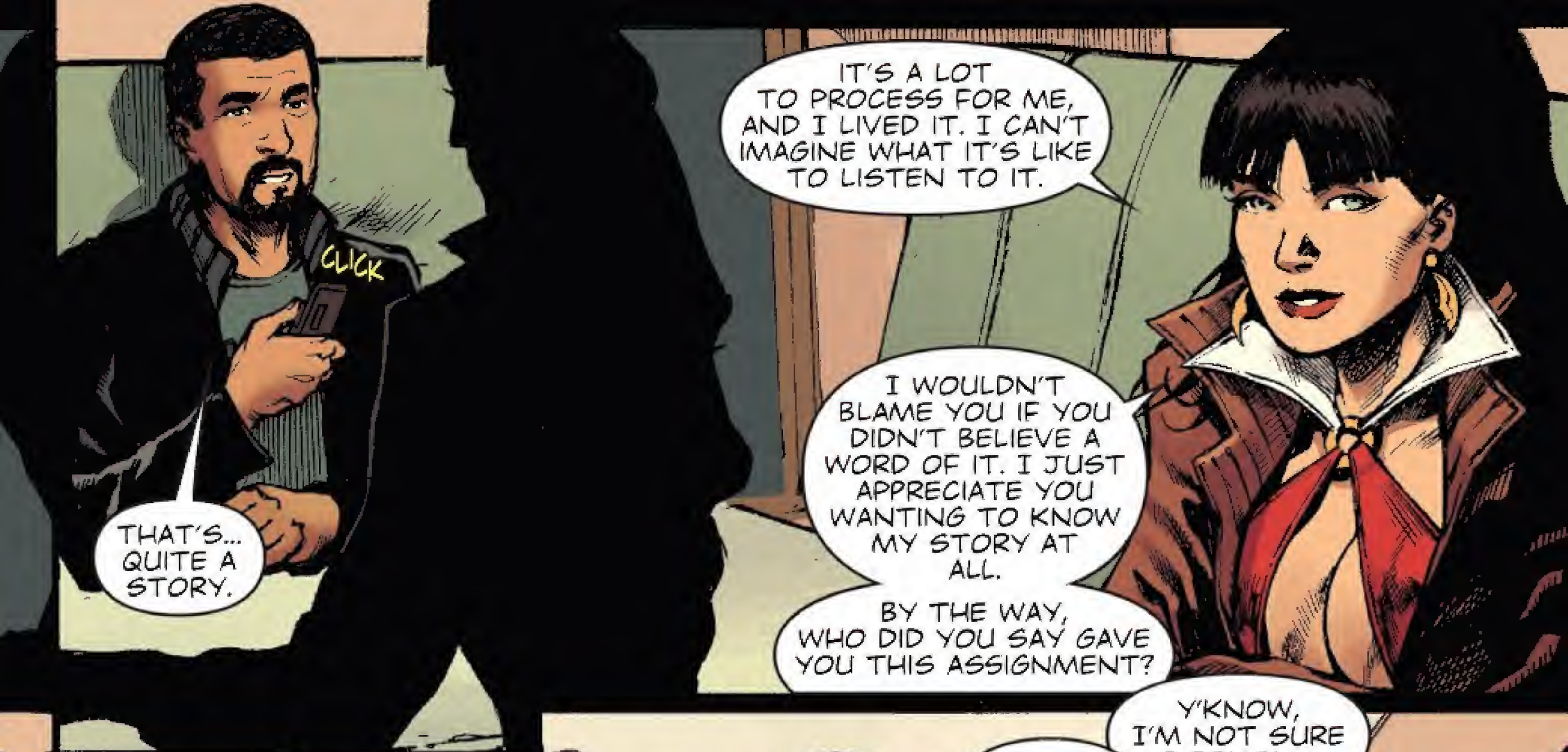


WE SEPARATE THE
DIVINE MESSENGER
FROM THIS UNHOLY
PLACE OF BEING, AND
ITS ANCHORS IN THE
DYING EARTH;

WE DECLARE
HER EXCOMMUNICATE
FROM THE LAWS OF
THIS PHYSICAL
PLACE;

WE JUDGE
HER WORTHY, AND
GRANT UNTO HER
SAFE PASSAGE, UNTIL
SHE SHALL RECOVER
HERSELF FROM THE
DAMNATION OF THIS
EXISTENCE,

AND
FIND PURCHASE
AND PURPOSE IN
A WELCOMING
NEW WORLD.



THAT'S...
QUITE A
STORY.

IT'S A LOT
TO PROCESS FOR ME,
AND I LIVED IT. I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO LISTEN TO IT.

I WOULDN'T
BLAME YOU IF YOU
DIDN'T BELIEVE A
WORD OF IT. I JUST
APPRECIATE YOU
WANTING TO KNOW
MY STORY AT
ALL.

BY THE WAY,
WHO DID YOU SAY GAVE
YOU THIS ASSIGNMENT?

Y'KNOW,
I'M NOT SURE
I REMEM--



HELLO
AGAIN! CAN
I GET YOU
ANYTHING
ELSE?

JUST
THE
CHECK.

IT'S
ON THE
HOUSE.



THAT'S
VERY KIND
OF YOU.

HAVE
A NICE
TALK?

WE DID.
I JUST
TOLD HIM MY
WHOLE LIFE
STORY.

THAT'S GOOD.
WHO KNOWS...
YOU MIGHT NOT
REMEMBER ANY OF
IT BY THE TIME YOU
GET TO WHEREVER
YOU'RE GOING
NEXT.

Thank
You!
😊

ONLY
ONE WAY
TO FIND
OUT,
RIGHT?

THE END.